

Witness Name: Robert Norval

Statement No.: WITN2313001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 19th June 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ROBERT NORVAL

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th November 2018.

I, Robert Norval, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Robert Norval. My date of birth is GRO-C 1997. My address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about my father, Bruce Norval. In particular, the nature of if his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.

Section 2. How Affected

2. My relationship with my father has been strained in the past, but he has opened up to me more, as I have gotten older. I learned a great deal about how he was infected through his play, Factor 9. As far as I understand it, my father believes that he was infected through the

Factor 9 treatment he received in his youth. This treatment is something he has needed throughout his life as a result of his haemophilia.

3. My father suffers from moderate Haemophilia B.
4. My father receives Factor 9 as treatment for his haemophilia. I am not aware of any treatments my father had as a result of him being diagnosed with hepatitis C. I only really found out details when I saw the play he wrote, Factor 9. My father was reluctant to share about his life but he has been more open as I have got older and more mature.
5. I know that my father was treated at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness during his youth, but I am unaware of who would have been treating him. My father was treated at Raigmore from when we moved back up to the north of Scotland. I am unsure when exactly this was as I was a child. My father has also lived in Edinburgh as a child and as an adult has lived in London, Scunthorpe and Redborne as far as I am aware. He will also have attended hospitals in those locations I would have thought. I do not know where my father was treated in London. He has been reluctant to tell me about his life in much detail.
6. I believe that my father thinks that he was infected when he was a child in Edinburgh. I am not aware of the reasoning behind this. I believe my father would have been living in London at the time he was diagnosed with Hepatitis C.
7. I believe my father told me that he was infected through Factor 9 containing contaminated blood. Due to this he was infected with hepatitis C.
8. I am not aware what information was provided to my father about his infection as I was not born when he was diagnosed and as such I am not sure exactly when this would have been.
9. I cannot comment if the information given to my father was adequate as I do not know. I was not born when he was diagnosed.
10. I do not know if information should have been provided to my father earlier as I don't know what was provided.

11. I am not aware of how my father's diagnosis was communicated to him. From seeing his Factor 9 play, I understand that he was just told that he had it.
12. I do not know what information was given to my father about managing his infection. From

Section 3. Other Infections

13. I am not aware of my father having been infected with any other viruses or conditions as a result of contaminated blood.

Section 4. Consent

14. My father has told me stories about doctor's making little comments and pointed questions being asked of him. I do not recall what these comments were but it did make it seem as if they somehow knew about his hepatitis C diagnosis prior to when he was informed.
15. I believe from what my dad has told me that he may have been tested for hepatitis C or other blood-borne conditions prior to his actually being told about his infection. Again, I was not born when my dad was diagnosed.

Section 5. Impact

16. My father moved to London when he was 19 or 20. He was studying nursing in college. My father has told me how he was kicked out of where he was living because of the negativity in the press about haemophiliacs having HIV or AIDS. I believe there were connotations associated with haemophiliacs and the AIDS scare in the 1980s. After living in London and meeting my mum, Christine Norval, I believe they moved to GRO-C to be closer to my mum's family. I do not know when this would have been as I was not born.
17. When I was 3 years old the family moved to GRO-C in the north of Scotland. I have been told this by my parents and sister, Catriona over time and do not remember this myself I know that it was before my sister, Catriona was born that he was diagnosed. I believe I knew he was a haemophiliac in nursery and the hepatitis was explained to me when I was about 10 years old.

18. In terms of how my father's condition and infection have affected him physically, the biggest example I can give is the amount of physical tasks I have to do that my father can't do. I have to deal with anything that requires a modicum of physical exertion. I deal with firewood, walking the dogs and anything heavy being moved. My father cannot do any physical activity without risking hurting himself so I would rather do this.
19. I am not aware of further medical complications or conditions resulting from the infection
20. Much of my father's illness was during my childhood and before I can remember so I do not recall the full course of his illness.
21. I am only able to speak to my father's factor 9 treatment he receives now as my father had treatment for his hepatitis C prior to me being born. My father is quite concerned with his factor 9 right now as they have made a change to what he receives and to the dosage. He is worried that it could stop working at any moment. It is quite experimental from what I understand about this.
22. I believe my father had access to all the treatments he wished to have but I could not say for definite.
23. I am not aware of any treatments my father wanted that he could not get.
24. I was not born when my father had treatment for his hepatitis C so I am not aware of treatments that he may have required but didn't access.
25. I believe that my father's dental care was heavily affected by his condition. I am unsure what this meant, but my father has told me that it has caused him issues. I recall that my father was quite angry when he was told that he could not get a tattoo because of his hepatitis C.
26. I believe that my father cannot go to America to connect with the haemophiliacs there because of his hepatitis C. My father has strong connections to the likes of the American Haemophiliacs Society.

27. My father's condition and infection have had a big impact on his social life. When my father was living down in London he was a roadie for bands. He had to give this up when he became sick.
28. My father's friends are either from his campaign about infected blood or from his youth.
29. In terms of our family life together, it has been very hard. I had thought for a long time that he was going to die. In fact I expected him to die. The idea of coming home from school to find him dead was normal to me. I believe that he himself is hyperaware of his mortality and so am I. I feel that I knew about death too early. I spent a lot of my younger years thinking about it.
30. The campaign for infected blood has taken up a good chunk of my father's life. We were not able to do normal father and son type activities like playing football. In the later years of me being in primary school I recall my father making an effort to go out on walks with me and the dogs.
31. My relationship with my father has been strained. There has always been a level of anger with my father. I have realised a lot of the anger is because he is in pain. I think our relationship has been good considering. We spent a lot of my younger years quite distant, when I was between 5 years old and 10, because I did not see the point then of spending time with someone who I thought was going to die. I was scared of him. I was scared that he seemed to almost represent death. Death seemed to come from him.
32. When I was younger I would go to my mum and my interaction with my father would be more sporadic. Our relationship has gotten better over time and I would say that we talk very regularly now. I spent the majority of the time loving my father but there are times when it's hard to be close to him when he is in pain and shouting and screaming at me and the rest of the family.
33. In School I was the weird kid who had a disabled father. I felt like an oddity. I cannot think of another kid I went to school with who had a disabled father. I do not think it gave rise to bullying but that was because I would not have stood for that. I think it did maybe affect how people treated me when I look back.

34. In terms of my social life I would not say that it is currently affected by my father's condition. When I was a child it was hard to understand the situation I was in. I found it hard to talk about my situation with my father. It was strange that my father was a househusband and my mum was the breadwinner. I did not know anyone else with a similar family set up.
35. It is hard to tell how affected we've all been because I have nothing else to judge it from. I believe that my father was illegally experimented on and infected. He is not a bad father or abusive, but again, I have nothing to compare it to.
36. All I know is that I should not have been aware of mortality as young as I was. A 6 year old should not really be aware that they will die one day. That's been in my head my whole life. Death has been a theme throughout my life in terms of what I wear, my art and the music I listen to.
37. I feel that being the youngest in my family I have had a good view of how this has all affected my family. My sister spends more time worrying about my father and my mum spends a lot of time freaking out over little things that happen day-to-day.
38. I have always wanted all this campaigning and the infected blood conversations to end. I would like there to be a full stop at the end of this inquiry where the campaign does not need to go on. My father is always saying how he wants to spend his free time when it is over, but he has never been able to.
39. I want there to be a conclusion to all of this. I want someone to accept blame for it. I want my father to be able to do all of the things he wants to do. There have been so many landmark dates when we have expected this to be over but it keeps going on. It is not right that it has taken my father's entire life to see justice being done.
40. I do not believe that this inquiry will stop it and I believe my father will have to keep fighting.
41. My dad does not work, and this is because of the debilitating nature of his condition.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

42. I do not believe that any counselling was offered to the family as far as I am aware. Mum and dad have always said I can talk to them if I need. I think counselling might have helped

when I was a child or a teenager. It would have been good to have someone to tell me not to worry about the situation I was in.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

43. I am aware of my parents having had financial assistance though funds but purely in the sense that I know it is there. Beyond that I am not aware of my parents having any difficulties in applying for anything. I do not have much awareness of this, as I have not been involved with any applications for funding.

Section 8. Other Issues

44. My father wrote a play called Factor 9, which was done at the Edinburgh Fringe. In this it details his life story and the course of how he came to be infected. As I have stated, this is where I learned most about my dad's diagnosis and details he might not have told me before.

45. There is nothing else I have to mention beyond the above.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

19/06/19