

Witness Name: Nia Wade
Statement No: WITN2415001
Dated: 13th March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF NIA WADE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry rules 2006 dated 12th December 2018. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, Nia Wade, will say as follows:-

1. Introduction

1. My name is Nia Wade. My date of birth is GRO-C 1989 and my address is known to the Inquiry.
2. My statement will be related to Gareth and Haydn Lewis, my Uncle's, who were infected with HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) through contaminated blood products.

2. How Infected

1. Haydn and Gareth were both infected in the 1980's following treatment for their haemophilia. Neither Gareth nor Haydn were told straight away that they

were infected. My Mum Beverley Tumelty's statement will go into more detail as to how Gareth and Haydn were infected.

3.Other infections

1. As far as I am aware Gareth and Haydn had no other infections.

4.Consent

1. My Mum Beverley Tumelty's statement will discuss the issue of consent as this is not something I have much knowledge about.

5.Impact

1. Gareth and Haydn dealt with their infections in different ways. Haydn was angry about what had happened to him and wanted to do something about it. He started campaigning and his passion to find answers almost turned into an obsession. Haydn had to give up work as his ability to work suffered and this was very difficult for him as he loved his work.
2. Gareth was the angrier of the two and had a bit of a temper on him. Gareth wasn't afraid to talk about being infected even with the stigma around HIV at the time. Gareth was much more of a public campaigner than Haydn and wanted answers but in a public domain.
3. For Gareth I know that the HIV affected his relationships and he never settled down. He was married once and engaged on another 2 occasions I believe. He did find it hard to keep a relationship. Gareth never had children of his own and I think that's why we, his nieces and nephews, were so close to him. Haydn was married to Gaynor and had 2 boys so the relationship impact was still there for him but in a different way to it had been for Gareth.
4. As I child I was aware that Gareth and Haydn had HIV and the fact that they were both ill. I don't remember not knowing as the family were always open

and honest about it. I think I always knew that they were going to die and that was just the "norm". Looking back this led to an obsession with death and I was very anxious about this as a child and this anxiety is still with me now.

5. 2010 was just the worst year. Haydn died in the May, my grandfather (on my Dad's side) died in the September and Gareth died in the December. We were unable to get over 1 death before the next loved one passed away. I also found out that I was pregnant in the October and was in Spain when Gareth passed away as I was deciding what to do regarding the pregnancy. The father of the baby had told me to have a termination and had gone travelling.
6. Gareth died and we were all grieving. I ended up having a termination as I was in a bad way. I thought I was going to die and that I didn't have a choice as I was so unwell. It's all a blur and it felt like another death that I had to deal with. In fact I pushed it all away and didn't deal with it and shut off that part of my brain.
7. I met my now husband not long after Gareth passed away and looking back I was still trying to be strong as I was starting a new relationship. I now have 3 children and after the birth of the first and third child I suffered with post natal depressions and anxiety. I'm still dealing with this now and having CBT for my anxiety regarding health and hospitals and the fact that I didn't deal with my grief back in 2010.
8. Gareth and Haydn's deaths have affected life like you wouldn't believe. I will always miss them. My husband and children never met them which is hard as they were such a massive part of my life. My daughter Isabel was born on Gareth's birthday, GRO-C, and I believe that it was his way of saying everything was OK and I find it special that she was born on this day.
9. I can't stress how important they were to us as a family and how big an impact their illness and deaths have caused. They weren't just Uncles they were such a massive part of our lives. Gareth spent Christmas' with us and stayed

with us whenever he was in Cardiff for hospital appointments and treatments. They were just taken away from us so unfairly and it still affects the whole family to this day and will continue to do so.

6.Treatment/Care Support

1. Gareth and Haydn were both poorly from the get go with different infections as a result of their HIV and hepatitis C (HCV). There were periods of time when they were well but they always had issues and could become poorly very quickly.
2. Haydn found out in that he had liver cancer and had a liver transplant a few months later but the liver he received was from a hepatitis C (HCV) infected donor. The cancer was a really unpleasant illness and Haydn really did suffer. It just seemed so unfair after having a liver transplant to find that the cancer had come back so quickly. Haydn did battle the cancer for a period but he passed away in May 2010.
3. Gareth died unexpectedly which I know is strange to say but he had been well at the time. We were on holiday in Spain and had been having a great holiday. The family were all on our way to a café in the nearest town and Gareth collapsed in the car when we arrived in the town. Gareth couldn't speak very well and my Mum could see straight away that he had a stroke and things were bad.
4. We got Gareth to the local medical centre that transferred him to Malaga. We were told that he had had a massive bleed on his brain and there was nothing that they could do for him. This was such a shock and came out of the blue. Gareth passed away with my Mum with him as she sat with him whilst he was dying. It wasn't a peaceful death and it was horrific having to watch my Mum having to be strong for Gareth. I saw Gareth after he passed away and was able to say my goodbyes to him.

7.Financial Assistance

1. I'm unable to answer any questions on financial assistance but I'm sure my Mum and Aunt will have answered these questions in their respective statements.

8.Other Issues

1. Gareth and Haydn campaigned for so long for a Public Inquiry and I just wish that they were here to see that one has finally happened. It was so important for them to get answers and I hope that we will get the answers they fought so long for.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... **GRO-C**

Dated..... 13/03/19