

Witness Name: Sarah Northcott  
Bradley  
Statement No: WITN2448001  
Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SARAH NORTHCOTT BRADLEY

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

I, Sarah Northcott Bradley will say as follows: -

#### 1.Introduction

1. My name is Sarah Northcott Bradley. My date of birth is GRO-C 1960 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am married to Martin. We have an 18-year-old daughter called Alice.
2. My brother is Christopher Thomas and he was infected with HIV and passed away in 1990 as a result of receiving contaminated blood in the 1980's.

#### 2.How Infected

1. My brother, Christopher Thomas, had haemophilia A mild to moderate. He died of AIDS in 1990, aged 46, leaving behind his wife, his 2 teenage children,

our parents and his 3 sisters. He was the eldest child and I am the youngest of the siblings.

2. I am not going to tell Christopher's story here. His story will be documented by his widow and his now grown up children. As an affected person I would like to take this opportunity to try to explain how Christopher's illness and consequent death have affected my life.

### **3.Other infections**

1. I have chosen not to discuss Christopher's story here; his story is being told by his widow and his immediate family.

### **4.Consent**

1. I have chosen not to discuss Christopher's story here; his story is being told by his widow and his immediate family.

### **5.Impact**

1. Christopher's illness and death have had a profound and life-long impact on me. There was an age gap of nearly 17 years between us. We loved each other but our relationship was tricky. I was in my early 20's when Chris was diagnosed with HIV and a consequence of this diagnosis was that any opportunities to resolve differences were taken away... lost. To put it bluntly, Christopher had enough to contend with, as did his immediate family and my parents, so any stress inducing issues were avoided. This meant that when Chris died, we hadn't resolved our differences. I didn't get the chance to forge a more equal, adult relationship with him. I didn't get the chance to tell him that I loved him and make him proud of me. As a consequence of his death, Christopher didn't get to meet my husband, Martin and our daughter, Alice.
2. I am aware that, had he not died of AIDS, we may still not have resolved our differences. However, the fact remains that Christopher's illness and resulting

death meant that the opportunity was lost forever. I would like to think that we would have developed a better relationship, but I will never know. This is the crux of the impact on me.

3. The process of writing this statement has, for me, highlighted the fact that I am still living with the impact of unfinished business and the loss of my brother and that this, in turn, has had an impact on my mental health over the years and continues to do so.

#### **6.Treatment/Care Support**

1. I have chosen not to discuss Christopher's story here; his story is being told by his widow and his immediate family.

#### **7.Financial Assistance**

1. I have chosen not to discuss Christopher's story here; his story is being told by his widow and his immediate family.

#### **8.Other Issues**

1. I would like to state that Christopher was a very passionate person; justice and fairness were core values of his. As a consequence, I am sure he would be very much involved in this search for truth and justice if he were alive today. The biggest loss of all is that *he* lost *his* life.

## Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-C

Dated.....

11<sup>th</sup> March 2019