

Witness Name: Felicity Morgan  
Statement No: WITN2516001  
Exhibits: WITN2516002- WITN2516003  
Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF FELICITY MORGAN

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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, Felicity Morgan, will say as follows:-

1. **Introduction**

1. My name is Felicity Morgan. My date of birth is GRO-C 1982 and my address is known to the Inquiry.

2. **How Affected**

1. My father was a mild haemophiliac and his medical records confirm that he had haemophilia A.
2. My mother married my father in 1989. I was 6 years old at this point in time. My father was not my biological father however he adopted me and loved me as his own.

3. I remember my father did not have regular bleeds. The only time he would require treatment would be when he had an accident. The chances of him having an accident would increase if he was performing any physical activities. My father was a bricklayer and later went onto become a Chartered Building Surveyor.
4. My father loved taking part in physical activities such as mountaineering, car rallying, golf nonetheless and did not let his haemophilia stop him from living his life. For example, my father built an extension on the house all by himself. However, my father did experience a few bleeds whilst building the extension despite the fact he was very careful and conscious of trying not to cause a bleed. I recall being told by my father that he received Factor VIII only on one occasion, this was in 1981. I know that my father was resistant to be treated with this as he had always been treated with cryoprecipitate and desmopressin acetate (DDAVP).
5. I recall my father being told in 1994 that he had contracted hepatitis C ('Hep C'). From what I have been told, my father received a letter from University Hospital Wales which requested he attend the Haemophilia Centre for a check up. At the appointment they told him he had contracted Hep C from contaminated blood products. My father was given 3 to 5 years to live. From viewing my father's medical records I can see that it was first suggested he was experiencing liver problems as far back as 1981. My father was given his only dose of Factor VIII in 1981. I refer you to Exhibit WITN2516002, this Exhibit is of my father's physiotherapy haemophilia musculoskeletal assessment form. On the form it states 'hepatitis C, admitted with liver failure 1981'. Me and my mother were only made aware of my father having contracted Hep C in 1994, so it is quite shocking to see that he was detected as having liver problems as far back as 1981.
6. As a result of contracting Hep C from contaminated blood products I believe my father was placed on clinical trials from 1995 to I think around 2010. Not long after his diagnosis my father was placed on his first round of Interferon.

From speaking with my mother I am aware that my father was first placed on Interferon trials as early as 1995.

### 3. Other infections

1. As a result of receiving contaminated blood products my father was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver. I am not sure but I think that my father had a biopsy which helped diagnose this. It was first suggested that my father's liver had turned cirrhotic in 1995, I am only aware of this from viewing my father's records. A letter from Dr Dasani addressed to Dr Phadke dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 1998 is shown at WITN2516003. The letter states that 'his abnormal ultrasound of the liver is suggestive of cirrhosis of the liver'.

### 4. Consent

1. I know that my father did not want to be given Factor VIII when it was administered to him. My father was used to receiving Cryoprecipitate and responded well to this so he did not understand the need for to have the Factor VIII.
2. Only us as a close knit family knew of my father's haemophilia, he was a very private man and did not reveal information like that about himself.

### 5. Impact

1. The only man that I could ever trust was my father. That was exactly what my father said to me. I knew that he was always there for me. He was an amazing father and I miss him dearly.
2. As a family we were never offered any counselling. I believe we should have been offered counselling as we went through a really horrific time. From believing for years that he had contracted hepatitis non A non B to being told he had hepatitis C and only had three to five years to live devastated all of us. The way my father was diagnosed was just diabolical. The news was

delivered to him and he was just expected to get on with it. No treatment or cure but there was a clinical trial he could take part in. From that time on it was if my father had been given a death sentence and with no hope of reprieve.

3. My father completely changed after he was diagnosed with Hep C. He became depressed and had low mood he also became short tempered and angry. The information my father was provided with concerning his diagnosis was also quite sparse. It later came to light from my father going to the hospital and seeing posters that he learnt Hep C could be passed through intercourse. He was told that he had contracted Hep C through the one infusion of Factor VIII. This angered my father as he had told the doctor he didn't need it as he had always been treated with cryoprecipitate and DDAVP.
4. When my father first started going through the clinical trials with Interferon he would just sit there and not say anything. He suffered really badly with flu like symptoms and wasn't able to do anything. The Interferon completely changed him. He also began to experience problems with his sleeping and would struggle to get to sleep at night. I know it was explained to my father that one of the side effects of Interferon were insomnia and a disturbed sleep.
5. It was just awful watching my father go through the routine of taking Interferon. I recall knowing when my father would be OK and when he would feel dreadful. My father wouldn't take any Interferon on a Monday so he would be OK. However on the days my father took the Interferon he would be quite unpredictable. It was only on a Monday that life on the trials were tolerable and almost normal for my father. I remember his whole body would itch and he would have headaches, he had difficulty walking, in fact he would often stay in bed. My father would sometimes think that he was having a heart attack. I believe he thought this as the Interferon was affecting him mentally.
6. I would get upset when my parents had disagreements whilst my father was on the Interferon. There was such a contrast from what my father was like prior to the Interferon and what he was like when he had taken it.

7. I would always get frightened that I would wake up and my father wouldn't be there. On one occasion when my father was injecting himself I remember turning to my mother and saying "why does he have to live like this, it's so unfair".
8. My father was eventually cruelly taken away from me and my children as their grandfather on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010 following an intercerebral bleed. My father was discovered collapsed on the kitchen floor by my mother and rushed to hospital soon after.
9. I suffer with depression and have been told by medical professionals that my father's death has been a contributing factor as to why my mood has been so depressed. I have an underlying feeling of "why did this have to happen to us?"
10. My niece (who my mother and father had the parental responsibility for and is still in the care of my mother) cannot talk about her granddad. She refuses to acknowledge his death and says she can't talk about it. My daughter cries as she misses him. I try to comfort them but it is just upsetting for everyone. My father was a comfort blanket for everyone. We always talk about him, speak of our happy memories with him and try very hard to block out the bad times.

6. **Treatment/Care Support**

1. My father received treatment for his haemophilia at the Haemophilia Centre at University Hospital Wales. I know that my father received treatment at Cardiff Royal Infirmary prior to this.
2. My father's Consultant Haematologist for the majority of his life was Professor Bloom. I know that my father had a tumultuous relationship with Professor Bloom. This was primarily because my father refused to allow the haemophilia to dictate and restrict the things that he wanted to do with his life which from what my father use to tell us, annoyed Professor Bloom.

- 3 My father's treatment for his Hep C consisted of many clinical trials. As I have discussed earlier in my statement the effects of these trials were very significant and life changing. My father would experience migraines whilst on the clinical trials. My father wasn't able to continue to work whilst on the trials so my parents suffered financially. As a result, my mother returned to work. At first she worked nights which was a huge problem for me as I was so frightened that if my father died in the night I would be all alone. My sisters had by then left home. I did feel like the only child to experience the horrors that the medication trials were causing to my father and to us. Having discussed my fears with my mother she found a job that she could work through the day and be with us at night.
- 4 I felt angry and frightened that this was happening to my father, angry with doctors and resentful towards school friends who had a happy life with their father being able to do normal things with them. Sometimes it felt as if I was grieving before my father had died. There were many occasions when my father was so ill that my mother and I thought that he would not survive the night. I would also look at people in the street, especially elderly people, and feel angry that they had already had a long life but I knew my father wasn't going to get old. I know that it isn't right to say but at the time I wished that they could have died instead of my father. My father was my rock, my security, when he died I lost this and his love. His death sent me spiralling into depression which unfortunately has resulted in a number of bouts of depression. Sometimes I can live with the depression but other times I need the help of medication. Most of my life with my father was blighted with bad times due to his illness and the clinical trials.
- 5 Sadly, when I look back on the times spent with my father the bad memories overshadow the good times. I wish that he had never gone on the trials as they made our lives miserable.

## **7. Financial Assistance**

1. I am aware that my mother has received two payments from the Caxton fund and one payment from the Skipton Fund and a one off payment from Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme.
2. My father also received two payments before he passed away from the Skipton fund.
3. I am aware that my mother applied for financial assistance to the Caxton Fund. My mother received those payments but experienced difficulties getting them in particular the last payment. One of the reasons my mother experienced problems was due to the fact it was not stated on my father's death certificate that he had passed away from Hep C.

8. **Other Issues**

1. Overall, I want justice for my father. I want someone to put their hands up and for someone to say they knew what was going on at the time and hold themselves accountable.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

**GRO-C**

Dated... 01-05-19 .....