

Witness Name: Ian Tumelty
Statement No: WITN2623001
Dated: 17th March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF IAN TUMELTY

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, Ian Tumelty, will say as follows:-

1. Introduction

1. My name is Ian Tumelty. My date of birth is GRO-C 1963 and my address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I am married to Beverley Tumelty whose brothers are Haydn and Gareth Lewis.
3. My statement will discuss how my two Brother's in Law were both infected with HIV and hepatitis through receiving contaminated blood products in the 1980's and how they both passed away in 2010 from these infections.

2.How Infected

1. I met Gareth and Haydn at around the same time in October 1984 when Beverley and I had recently started dating. I understood that they both had haemophilia and, around that time, there was a Public Health Awareness campaign in the media and on TV about AIDS and images of headstones associated with AIDS.
2. In late 1984, shortly after I met Gareth and Haydn, I was told that they were HIV positive through infected blood products. At that time we thought that the diagnosis meant that they didn't have much time left due to the fatality of the disease and that they would pass away fairly quickly.

3.Other infections

1. I believe that as well as being infected with HIV both Gareth and Haydn were infected with hepatitis A and what was later identified as hepatitis B (HBV). It also transpired that they had been exposed to Creutzfeld-Jacobs disease (vCJD) through pooled blood donations.

4.Consent

1. My wife Beverley Tumelty and sister in law Gaynor Lewis will discuss the subject of consent in their respective statements for Gareth and Haydn.

5.Impact

1. Haydn was a carpenter/roofer and due to a number of bleeds and treatment he was unable to carry on with the job that he loved. Gareth for a time worked, I don't recall where, but had to leave this employment as some of the people he worked with made things difficult for him when they found out about the HIV. The things that Gareth experienced would probably be seen as a disability hate crime nowadays.

2. I worked with both Gareth and Haydn with Haemophilia Wales and I was a Trustee and Secretary. I was part of the campaign for synthetic blood products and Wales became the 1st place in the UK to get these products. My

son Joseph

GRO-C

GRO-C

3. Haydn passed the HIV infection to his wife Gaynor and this was open within the family although they did wait a few years before telling their two boys. It must have taken their toll on them as a couple and as a family.
4. Gareth's response to being infected was to help others through Haemophilia Wales, the Birchgrove Group and Tainted Blood. He did work with the Haemophilia Society but this wasn't successful as he disagreed with their policies so he moved on. Gareth was inclusive of all the different parties infected and took an inclusive approach. Gareth even moved to Birmingham to be closer to the Tainted Blood offices where he was working.
5. There were many times that we saw Gareth unwell as he would often stay with us if he was having treatment in Cardiff. When he had his hip replaced he stayed with us for 6-8 weeks for recovery. As a family we looked after Gareth when he had his manic episode where he should have been put into a place of safety but the Psychiatric Nurses would not admit him. This manic episode was to last about a week and Gareth needed constant supervision. I was a Police Officer at the time and took time off work, along with my wife, during this manic episode as he needed close supervision. At one point he was so manic that we weren't sure if he was able to get better. I understand that the steroids prescribed to treat his HIV caused this manic episode.
6. Gareth was bitter and disappointed with the Macfarlane Trust and how it was being managed. The haemophilia community's calls for an Inquiry and answers were being ignored. At the time the NHS was not devolved (I believe that this Inquiry should be looking at the NHS as a non devolved organisation)

and Gareth was frustrated that documents were being destroyed or unavailable.

7. Haydn dedicated his spare hours working and looking up all things to do with the history and information regarding the blood that was brought in from prisons in the USA. He did a lot of research on Bill Clinton who was the State Senator of Arkansas when the blood was bought in from the USA. Haydn had a fantastic knowledge and became a national go to person to consult regarding a number of topics especially regarding haemophilia and contaminated blood products. I would say he was almost obsessive in his search for the truth and dedicated the final years of his life to this goal.
8. The whole family were devastated when Haydn and Gareth passed in the same year, 2010. Haydn was a father figure to my wife Bev and in turn was like a father in law to me. Haydn was a lovely man and is dearly missed. Gareth was a dear friend and almost like a brother to me. He is also dearly missed and the whole situation is just heart-breaking. There has been a huge affect on my son Joe [GRO-C] he looked up to both Gareth and Haydn. [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] he was grief stricken at the untimely passing, as we all were.

6.Treatment/Care Support

1. We witnessed Haydn's health fail. He had his liver transplant but he was given a liver from a hepatitis infected donor as the doctors wouldn't give him an uninfected liver. Haydn developed cancer and suffered badly through the chemotherapy. He was prescribed some experimental drugs which affected the skin on his hands. Due to this he couldn't even pick up his first born grandson which I know caused him pain and regret. He tried everything to hang on for his family but Haydn passed away in May 2010 at Holme Towers, a hospice in Penarth.

2. In December 2010 Beverley and I went to Spain, with Gareth, to visit their brother Mark. We were all enjoying our holiday but Gareth collapsed in a car park in Benarmargosa suffering from a suspected stroke. We took Gareth to the local medical centre who could see his condition was pretty serious. They then transferred him to the hospital in Malaga. At the neurological unit in Malaga they took scans and Bev, who is a neurological nurse, saw the scans and speaking with the doctors understood that Gareth had experienced a catastrophic event and they could offer no treatment.
3. The hospital in Malaga sent Gareth back to the original hospital in Velez Malaga. In the UK I understand that patients are heavily medicated to manage the end stage process but this is not the case in Spain and I know that it was very distressing for Bev to witness. My daughter Nia and I left Bev at the hospital to return to where we were staying and she stayed with Gareth until he passed away. We only got half way back before Bev called to say that Gareth had passed away. I returned to the hospital and said my goodbye to Gareth.
4. Gareth left no instructions in regards to his estate. We cremated him in Spain and brought his ashes back to the UK and Bev stepped up as Gareth's next of kin. When we returned to the UK we had the difficult task of emptying Gareth's flat in Birmingham and distributing his personal items to the family. As you can imagine this was an upsetting and unpleasant time.

7.Financial Assistance

1. My wife Beverley Tumelty and sister in law Gaynor Lewis will discuss the subject of financial assistance in their respective statements for Gareth and Haydn.

8.Other Issues

1. Gareth and Haydn fought for answers as to why haemophiliacs especially were infected with contaminated blood products. This has been a long

campaign for these answers and I hope that this Inquiry finally provides the answers that they fought so hard for.

2. I feel outraged that my dearly loved Brother's in Law have both died through no fault of their own, but because of incompetence, cost cutting and a lack of care from the NHS. I also believe that they are victims of criminal malpractice in regard to the import of blood from prisons in the USA.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-C

Dated.....

17/3/19