

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF WESLEY CARBERY

I, Wesley Carbery, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Wesley Carbery, DOB GRO-C 1980 and I live at GRO-C,
GRO-C.
2. My father, Harvey Carbery, DOB GRO-C 1956, died in or about 2000 after being infected with Hepatitis C and HIV through contaminated blood products.
3. My uncle, Russell Eric Carbery, also died as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My Dad suffered from severe Haemophilia A and was treated with Factor VIII concentrate. I do not have any other information about his medical history. I have applied for his UKHDO records.

6. My parents separated when I was very young. My Mum told me that my Dad left when I was three years old and that he had died. This is what I grew up believing.
7. I later found out that he didn't die until 2000 and that he was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of treatment with Factor VIII concentrate.
8. I believe that my Mum and her family distanced themselves from my Dad and Uncle Russell because of the Contaminated Blood Scandal and the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS at that time. I did not see Uncle Russell after the age of 3.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I am not aware of any other infections that my father was exposed to but he may have been exposed to vCJD.

Section 4. Consent.

10. I do not know what information he was/was not given regarding Factor VIII treatment or what tests were carried out on him because I have not had access to his medical records.

Section 5. Impact

11. In 1985 my Mum met a new partner, [GRO-D]. She had a son, [GRO-D] with him in [GRO-C] 1986. They were together for 3 years. During that time [GRO-D] [GRO-C] [GRO-C] and eventually my Mum left him.

12. She then met a new partner, [GRO-D] and they had two daughters; [GRO-D]

13. [GRO-D]

14. When I was 11 years old I ran into [GRO-D]. He injected me [GRO-D] and that was the start of my drug addiction. I was then expected to steal for [GRO-D] if I wanted to avoid a beating.
15. I was eventually caught stealing and went to prison in 1998 for theft. It was actually a relief because it was an escape from [GRO-D]. Before that I had run away numerous times and called Childline for help. I had also reported [GRO-D] to the police but everytime I did they still let him come back.
16. In 2002 I moved to Wales and my Mum and the girls moved to be near me the following year. [GRO-D] was seen by Mental Health because he struggled with everything he had been through. In 2009 he killed himself because he could not cope with the trauma anymore. I was absolutely devastated. I had just started to get my own life back together when I lost him and it sent me into a downward spiral; I thought I had managed to save him but I hadn't.
17. Over time I have had help from the Mental Health Services. I have been diagnosed with PTSD and a Personality Disorder. I also have a muscle wasting disease.
18. I have been clean [GRO-D] since about 1998. I have been treated [GRO-D] and diazepam since and came off diazepam about 18 months ago. My psychiatrist has now prescribed a different medication and discharged me from his service.
19. When we managed [GRO-D] (in or about 2003) Mum told me that Dad didn't die until 2000. She said that he was infected with HIV as a result of contaminated blood and that she had been too scared to say anything earlier because [GRO-D] [GRO-D] I believe that she would have tried to go back to my Dad if things had been different.
20. Over the years and following discussions with other family members, memories have come back to me about my Dad. I remember my Mum's family saying that my Dad could hurt me if he came to find me because he might bite me and give me AIDS. On one occasion I saw him and ran away because I believed what I had been told.
21. Dad was an audio technician. He was very clever and apparently talked about things like WiFi long before they were a reality. He also invented a lie detector test before they

were available commercially. Because his ideas were ahead of their time people thought he was crazy.

22. He was treated at Prestwich Hospital and diagnosed with schizophrenia and paranoia. According to my family when Dad became infected he became even more paranoid and I believe his diagnosis had a big impact on his mental health.

23. Mum told me that he fought to get access to me through the Court system but after the Mental Health Services got involved he was denied access. On one occasion he kidnapped me and took me to his house. I have a memory of the police kicking the door down.

24. I have 5 children; [GRO-C] [GRO-C] [GRO-C], [GRO-C] and [GRO-C]. I have always seen as much of them as I can although it has not always been easy because of my history of drug addition and mental health problems.

25. A year ago I managed to secure a contract at a stately home to manage the bar, venue and swimming pool. Accommodation was included and it was a great job. Unfortunately my ex wife called the police and told them I had a shot gun on the premises and even though I was not charged with any offence after the police came out; the owners of the venue couldn't risk any adverse publicity and I lost my job.

26. I now have plans to set up my own business in security.

27. I believe that if Dad hadn't been infected he would have retained some access to me and I would have had a completely different upbringing. Instead, I am turning 40 next year and I am only just starting a proper adult life.

28. My cousins went through a lot of name calling at school because of the stigma of AIDS and Uncle Russell. However, they were very lucky to not have to go through what I went through.

29. I miss my Dad so much. He didn't die until I was 20 so we could have had a proper relationship together.

30. I have been told that my Dad was a nice man. He was still talking about me on his death bed. Apparently he used to watch me playing.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

31. I haven't had any support in relation to finding out about my Dad's infection.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

32. I get PIP payments

33. I have not heard anything from the Skipton Fund or MacFarlane Trust.

Section 8. Other Issues

34. The Government not only killed my father but also left me in a terrible situation.

35. I want justice for what happened to my dad, and justice for what happened to me and my brother.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

36. I do not wish to apply for anonymity.

37. I want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated:

26/2/19