

Witness Name: Ms Rachel Nordoff  
Statement No.: WITN2824001  
Exhibits: 0  
Dated: 19 September 2019

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

---

### **FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MS RACHEL NORDOFF**

---

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

1. My name is Rachel Ann Nordoff. My date of birth and address are known to the Inquiry.
2. I am the daughter of Barbara Lowe and sister of GRO-B and Rodger Lowe.
3. I currently live with my father. I have two children Maria aged 29 and Jack aged 24. I have also got two grandchildren GRO-C aged 5 (Maria's daughter) and GRO-C who is 18 months old (Jack's son).

#### **Section 2: How Infected**

4. My mum was my best friend; she helped me when my marriage broke up. My mum helped me even though she had not been through anything like that before; no one knew how to go about things in divorce, but she was there to support me.

I can honestly say there are no negatives about her. She would push you to do things and was always there to help me out.

5. She could read us all like a book. If you were quiet and there was something up, she knew and wouldn't rest until you told her. She was the best friend you could have and you could tell her anything. This was the same with my children, especially the conversations she would have with my Jack. She would say to him *look after girls, treat them with respect, don't ever fetch police to the door*, things like that. Same with our Maria *keep your legs crossed, don't do this*. You could talk to her about little things and she would find them hilarious. We knew right from wrong.
6. My kids could talk to my mum better than probably they could talk to me. My mum saw them grow up to their teens; their lives were just starting. She seemed right proud of them especially our Maria. My son, he's a dad now, he's grown up. There was a special bond between them my mum and our Jack and even at mum's funeral Jack did a speech and it was brilliant. It has affected us all individually.
7. I worked away at Butlins in Bognor. However, I was at home when she had the stroke but to be honest I remember what GRO-B said. When mum had the stroke she used to write to me, at home. She made an effort to write. I used to ring her every fortnight. She got a letter about her teeth and I was hoping to get up for Christmas but she said not to bother. She said enjoy yourself; don't come home for Christmas if you come I will be mad. I said why, why and she explained that she had her teeth out, and that staff had lost her papers and had to have operation. I believe it was after during operation that she had the blood transfusion.

## Section 5: Impact

8. Mum used to get down and talk to my sister GRO-B. Because I had my own things she probably did not want to bother me with things. She kept smiling and joking. My mum put a front on and sometimes you could see behind it. I could see through her and she could see through me.
9. When she was diagnosed with the Hepatitis C in 2003, I felt angry. I might have been relieved knowing what it was, but I was furious and scared. My mum said I was organised, but she was super organised. Monday was rent day so she would go to town to grab a few bits; Tuesday was Sheffield - fish day; Wednesday was tidy up, she had a routine for everything. Cook and get dinner on for my dad coming in from work. She was so organised. I probably didn't appreciate what she did; you don't think when you are growing up until you have got your own family.
10. Mum looked after my kids whilst I worked and she would always babysit; it was never a problem. Even on New Year's Eve she had all kids. Not many grandparents do that. Maria and Jack probably saw their Nan more she saw them grow up. I can see my mum getting off the bus walking down the road and I would say to the children *go and get the bag off her*. Over time the bags were getting less and she was going less into town. She kept trying and kept trying but you could tell she wasn't right. She was fighting but was getting slower.
11. She would go to town one day and then I would go with her on Friday. My dad finished work and so my dad started taking her in car. Things really impacted on mum around Christmas time, before Christmas she would just disappear, getting things ready for Christmas and I think that was one of the depressions that got to my mum. She kept pushing herself; she kept trying.
12. Sundays she would say *come on Keith*. She used to have a little run out for a

pub lunch and she used to love it. It became that Sundays were her life. Over time, she became increasingly tired and was throwing up. Her life was getting less and less. She was throwing up a lot. Her taste buds had gone.

13. She was physical and strong but she was tired. The more she pushed herself the more she tired, but she went to bed and took her headache tablets and next day a good day. Even the next morning she would say *when you come allow me a couple of hours to come round ill be fine*. She would have a cup of tea, a cigarette and tablets; two hours and she was right as rain. But if something happened unexpected it put her out for the day and she was tired so she had a little routine.
14. My mum did take some things out on my dad but my dad didn't help matters; they were both as bad as each. They fell out and they made up. You could always tell when they made up because dad would sit beside her and put his arm around her. Jack and Vera Duckworth - that's what they were like. You could tell they were in a mood - mum wouldn't let on they were in a mood but you could tell.
15. Mum had lots of blood tests and blood counts. She told warfarin so that had to be monitored too. I think doctors also looked at her liver - liver and blood done every time, each time. Mum was very aware of germs, she had no immune system. She hated the winter because she knew she was poorly.
16. She loved being outside in garden. When winter came she became depressed as she was stuck in the house. Everything just got her down. I lost my mum and my best friend. I am angry. We are all different I think I am the angry one, I think I am the one to cause a scene. It has definitely put a damper on my health because I have got anxiety and depression. I am pretty sure when mum died part of me went with her.

17. Regarding the mental and physical side effects of the treatments that mum received for her hepatitis C; I know overall that mum had no energy and she was very depressed. I do not know what effects were related to the hepatitis C and what effects were related to the treatment for it. Mum's strength started to deteriorate badly.
18. My dad is just living day by day, he plods on; I feel sorry for my dad. I have gone in on myself. I have been to the doctors a lot since. My children miss her terribly. She would be so proud of her grandchildren.

#### **Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support**

19. I have had counselling. I had a breakdown. I am not having another year like I had but it just won't go away. Some people say get over it but you cannot and I have talked to different people. I don't want to come across as moody. When mum cried it broke our hearts. I remember going to the doctor and obviously I told him about the situation and the blood transfusion and he was nasty with me. He made me feel like an idiot so I just shut up. I remember feeling an idiot and I hate the doctors now. Every time I go to the doctors I feel like I am wasting their time and I tried to avoid going. That is how they make me feel.
20. I was told I was depressed. I was given a telephone number to ring. One day I actually rang this number and I couldn't get through they were engaged. I wanted to talk to someone and it was engaged and I thought I am not doing it. I was on phone about 45 minutes waiting to speak to someone. That's me I have done it I won't do it again.

#### **Section 8: Other Issues**

21. I am the angry one. I am frustrated. I want this inquiry to get to the bottom of things, to get to the truth. I don't want it to be that one person is to be made a

scapegoat. It has got to be different people. You cannot blame one person for this for a disaster on this level – there were lots of people who knew. I just hope the inquiry team is brave enough to get to the truth.

**Statement of Truth**

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

**SIGNED**

GRO-C

**DATED**

...19 September 2019.....