

Witness Name: Lorraine Newman-
Lawrence

Statement No.: WITN2848001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 8th March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LORRAINE NEWMAN-LAWRENCE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 28th January 2019

I, Lorraine Newman-Lawrence, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Lorraine Newman-Lawrence. My date of birth is the GRO-C GRO-C 1963. My address GRO-C I have lived here since 1998. I live with my husband Mark. I intend to speak about my brother Craig Thomas Newman's infection of hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him, our family and our lives

together up until the point of his death on the 2 August 1974 at the age of 8.

Section 2. How Affected

2. My brother Craig was a lovely boy with the biggest brown eyes and longest eyelashes I had ever seen on any child. He was a happy little boy. We used to fight a little, as any normal siblings would do.
3. One of my early memories of Craig was that he used to get sore legs – mostly cramp. My Mum would wrap up his legs in blankets and give him hot water bottles. He would then start to get really bad nosebleeds. These weren't your normal nosebleeds, it was as if every pint of blood in his body was coming out.
4. My Mum took Craig to the doctors, and all of a sudden he started having all of the tests. He was only around 5 years old as he had not long started school. This would have been 1971, possibly early 1972.
5. I didn't really know what was going on at this time, as I was only 8 or 9 myself. I ended up having to go to the hospital to get lots of tests done as well. At the time I thought I may have been ill myself – however it turned out that they were testing me to see if I could be of any assistance to Craig. I was still unaware of what was going on with Craig at this time.
6. It was shortly after this that my parents told me that my brother had aplastic anaemia. My parents told me that it was a really serious illness – but I did not really know what it meant. My Dad told me it was a little bit like leukaemia – which I did know – but I was not to worry about it.
7. I remember Craig being taken into The Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh after having a really bad nosebleed. He was given a blood transfusion. I think Craig was given 7 blood transfusions

in total, as my Mum became a blood donor and said she wanted "to give back the seven pints of blood" to Craig.

8. I think Craig also received platelets by transfusion as there was always tests being done on his platelets which were really low.
9. I think Craig was in hospital for a total of 2 years.
10. I remember noticing Craig was starting to change – he was becoming hairy on his face, he developed acne and put on a lot of weight. My Mum and Dad told me that it was because of the treatment he was receiving and the hospital was trying to turn him into a man so that they could make him better. I think now that Craig was being treated with some form of steroids to bring on this effect.
11. I think now that this treatment was perhaps to push Craig past puberty to give him the strength to get a bone marrow transplant.
12. My Dad was then told by a Dr Simpson at The Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh that Craig had been given contaminated blood, and had contracted Hepatitis C. He told my Dad that Craig's treatment for his aplastic anaemia would have to stop. Dr Simpson was crying when he told my Dad this, as Craig had been in that hospital for such a long time.
13. My Dad told me that Craig had contracted Hepatitis C from some "bad blood". I don't think anyone knew at the time, or now, how it was contaminated.
14. I don't know why the treatment for Craig's aplastic anaemia had to stop, but suddenly it seems to be treated secondary to his Hepatitis C.
15. I was then told that Craig was going to be moved to the City Hospital in Edinburgh. This was early in 1974. The hospital was up in the Morningside area of Edinburgh and no longer exists.

16. I was told by my Mum and Dad that I wasn't allowed to see Craig. I didn't know why – all I was told was that Craig was really ill and only my parents could see him.
17. The room Craig was put in at the City Hospital was a side room off the Adult-Only Ward at the Infectious Diseases Unit. Craig was in total isolation. The nurses would go into Craig's room with full masks and protection on – this made me think that Hepatitis C must be really dangerous.
18. My only contact with Craig whilst he was in the City Hospital was when my Mum or Dad would open the window of his room for me to wave to him from the garden below. This lasted throughout the Spring and Summer of 1974.
19. At one point my Dad took me up to the City Hospital, but told me I had to dress up as a doctor. I was dressed up in blue doctors' scrubs which covered me from head to toe. I wore a mask and my Dad took me into Craig's room for about 10 minutes. I didn't even recognise Craig when I saw him. He was yellow and looked like one of The Simpsons. That was the last time I ever saw my brother. He died on 2 August 1974 – I was 10 years old.
20. My Mum and Dad have since told me that the night Craig died, he was in a great deal of discomfort. He was haemorrhaging internally. He was distressed and must have been in pain. My Mum and Dad would have had to sit and watch that, and there was nothing they or the doctors could do.
21. On Craig's death certificate there are 4 causes listed as the cause of death: pneumonia; abdominal haemorrhaging, and; Hepatitis C. I cannot remember what the 4th one is.
22. I think Craig may have been one of the first people infected with Hepatitis C as the hospital did not know what to do with him. How

could a child, who was at the time 7 years old, be put into an adult's infectious disease unit in total isolation?

23. I think my Dad would have been told at the time what Craig's diagnosis of Hepatitis C meant. I think that is why he was so upset.

Section 3. Other Infections

24. I do not think Craig was infected with anything else other than Hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

25. I believe that my Dad agreed for Craig to receive blood transfusions – he did not agree for Craig to receive contaminated blood.
26. He recalled signing parental consent forms – and now feels that in signing these he signed Craig's death warrant. It was a Catch 22 as Craig needed the blood transfusions as he was haemorrhaging so much.
27. If it was explained to my Dad that there was a chance the blood may have been contaminated with Hepatitis C, there is no way he would have allowed Craig to have it.
28. I do not think there was enough information given as to the risks involved in receiving a blood transfusion.
29. I do not know if any of the treatment Craig received was for the purposes of research. I don't think my Dad would have consented to this anyway as he was ill, and only a little boy. But I do not know if the treatment he was receiving for his aplastic anaemia was tried and tested before.

Section 5. Impact

30. My Dad was told by the hospital that because Craig had Hepatitis C, we could not have an open-casket funeral and he could not be buried - we would have to cremate him. As Catholics, this was very difficult for my Dad.
31. I wasn't allowed to go to Craig's funeral as my Mum and Dad thought it would be too distressing for me.
32. I feel that as a family we were robbed of the hope that Craig would survive having aplastic anaemia – the treatment was always improving at that time, and now 80% of people survive having aplastic anaemia. We were also robbed of being able to bury him at Mount Vernon where the rest of our relatives are buried. I was robbed of my brother – he will forever be 8 years old.
33. There is not a birthday or Christmas that goes by where I do not wonder what would have happened to Craig's life if he was to survive.
34. I now suffer from insecurity, and feel that I have abandonment issues. Forming relationships as I got older became difficult as I felt that people would be leaving me. I never really sought any help for it.
35. I was married when I was 17 – I had only known the person for 8 weeks. I stuck that out longer than I should've as I didn't want to be the one that broke up the family. As I was insecure I stayed in a relationship that I never should have stayed in.
36. Towards the end of Craig's life, whilst he was at the City Hospital, my Mum would stay with my Nan and she and my Dad had split up. Their marriage did not survive and they ended up getting a divorce.

37. I remember not long after Craig died, we were all at my Nan's house. My Mum had grabbed my arm and told me "Go get your brother, he is out in the garden. It has started to rain and he is going to get wet". I didn't know what to do as I had just been told that he had passed away and now my Mum was telling me he was outside. My Dad took me outside to keep me away from her as my Mum was obviously distraught.
38. My parents' divorce had a huge impact on my life. It was the worst divorce in history. I had to go to lawyers to say who I wanted to stay with. I went to live with my Dad and would see my Mum every second weekend.
39. I think for a while afterwards my Mum would be GRO-C
GRO-C.
40. She would sometimes turn up at my school and ask me to live with her. She would say "I have lost Craig, I don't want to lose you as well".
41. I remember turning round to my Mum and saying "You didn't want me until Craig passed away". It was a horrible thing for me to have said – but that's how I felt at the time.
42. My Mum died in 2009 aged 66 – she never got over losing Craig. I remember shortly before she died she said she was going to be with Craig now. I was happy for her but also jealous as I was to lose my mum.
43. Losing Craig also had a massive impact on my Dad. He stopped going to Chapel and believing in God – which had always been an important part of his life. My Dad threw himself into work and started gambling heavily.

44. I remember asking my Dad if he wished that I had died instead of Craig, as he was his son. He broke down crying saying, "of course I don't, I love you as well". For a child to ask that question shows what was going on in my head at the time.
45. I think we all tried to deal with the loss of Craig in the best way we could, but in hindsight it does not seem we did our best.
46. I still don't fully understand what Hepatitis C is to this day. I always thought it was something junkies got sharing needles.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

47. I have never sought out psychological support. I do not know if I was offered this support when Craig died.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

48. I am unaware of any financial assistance that has been awarded to my parents as a result of Craig being infected with Hepatitis C.

Section 8. Other Issues

49. I think there was a lot of hiding of files and the truth by the Government. I think someone needs to be held accountable for this. I know it won't really help the poor people who have been infected by this contaminated blood – but how could these people be given contaminated blood for over 20 years? I still think there are people now who are continuing to try and cover up what happened. I think it is time that peoples' voices were heard whether they were infected or affected.
50. My Dad, Alfred Newman, is to make a statement to the Inquiry too. He may also have a copy of Craig's death certificate to provide.

51. At this moment, however, I have nothing further to add.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

08/03/19.