

Witness Name: Gary Morris

Statement No.: WITN0035001

Exhibit: Nil

Dated: 19-March 2019 5th March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GARY MORRIS

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 21st November 2018.

I, Gary Morris, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Gary Morris. My date of birth is GRO-C 1962 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about my brother Jeffrey Stanley Morris who was born on GRO-C 1963, and was infected with the HIV and Hepatitis C (hereinafter referred to as 'HCV') from contaminated blood products. In particular, I will speak about the nature of his illness and how it affected my family and I.

Section 2. How Infected

2. Jeff was diagnosed as a haemophiliac at 3 years old in 1966. None of us really understood what this meant but we just got on with it. Family life was disrupted and our entire childhood was dominated by the fact that Jeff was in and out of Myrtle Street Children's Hospital (this later became the Royal Liverpool Hospital).
3. He had two brain haemorrhages and survived both, however he developed quite serious behavioural issues. We were not allowed to play fight and he wasn't allowed on my bike. Very early on it was drummed into me that he was my responsibility and I was not to allow anything bad to happen to him. This was a very heavy burden for me as a young boy and I became very aggressive. If anyone taunted Jeff or called him names, I dealt with it with my fists.
4. As Jeff got older it was clear that his condition was getting worse. He started to drive a car and just using the pedals would cause bleeds into his knees. He then started to realise that everyone was getting jobs or going to university and he didn't really have an education behind him. He couldn't hold down a full time job either because of his health.
5. When Jeff turned 16, he decided that he wanted to take control of his own life. He didn't want anyone following him to hospital appointments, and he managed his condition on his own. He had both the plasma and the cryoprecipitate. He always agreed to do medical trials for the NHS. He was brought up to believe that doctors know what they're doing and that they should be trusted.
6. The hospital introduced factor VIII almost as a cure for haemophilia. Jeff was very excited about this. The best thing for him was knowing that he could do it at home by himself. He was part of the trial in the late 1970s and was taught how to use the syringes and sharps. The factor VIII was kept refrigerated at home.

7. My dad and I were also taught how to administer the factor VIII by the hospital staff. It had to be mixed and a liquid would be drawn out of a bottle, and then you would mix it with a powder and shake it together. Jeff was very happy because this way, he didn't have to be in the hospital as much.
8. Jeff began to make his own friends on the estate. He became a bit of a partygoer and would go out to the football and to clubs. If he felt a bleed he would just self-administer and then he would be fine.
9. On a night out in late in New Brighton, Jeff fell and fractured his hip. He was in a great amount of pain and was told by the hospital that he would need a hip replacement. They couldn't find any surgeons to operate on Jeff and I believe this was because by this time it was known that he had HIV. I am unsure exactly when and how Jeff found out that he had HIV. I think I was one of the last in the family to find out because I had left home and was busy with my own life.
10. Jeff and I weren't as close because I had met my wife and moved out of the family home. I think Jeff felt like I had betrayed him because I had always promised to look after him. Jeff and Jackie, my younger sister, were very close and so I think she knew before me.
11. I know that Jeff was definitely told verbally on a visit to the hospital. However I am not sure if he received a letter also because he and mum destroyed everything.
12. Jeff was also infected with HCV however it was the least of his problems on the grand scheme of things. He knew it was incurable and it was just 'another thing' he had. I'm not sure exactly when he was told that he had been infected with HCV.

13. I don't recall any of us being given any advice about anything at all. I don't remember leaflets or meetings or discussions or anything. That is one thing I have felt guilty about since Jeff died; my lack of knowledge. I have always felt like I let him down.

Section 3. Other Infections

14. Aside from the Haemophilia, HIV and HCV; we saw a manifestation of dementia which I believe was a direct result of the HIV. We were advised by doctors that the HIV had "gone to his brain".

Section 4. Consent

15. I do not know if Jeff did or did not consent to receiving blood products, however I am sure he did not consent to being given blood products from infected sources.

Section 5. Impact

16. I vividly remember, one day taking Jeff to a shop, he had a pair of jeans and slippers on. He linked my arm and we went in. There was a girl behind the counter, and he asked her if he could buy a pack of 20 cigarettes, she served us and we left. As we were making our way home he said 'I want to go back in and change them'. He did this a few times and insisted that the cashier change the cigarettes. At this point I knew things were going downhill.

17. He then began telling my mum that I was poisoning him, and that I was trying to kill him. We knew something was seriously wrong with him mentally.

18. While this was going on I left my job because I couldn't balance the type of work I was doing with my family life. I started to retrain in my

career and decided that I wanted an office job. I was at university in Liverpool doing Information, Management and Computing.

19. Jeff was becoming really ill and I was a full time student, working part-time on evenings and weekends whilst trying to look after him. There was a nurse who would come over once a week and she would sit with us and ask us questions. She would write notes and then sit in her car for 45 minutes after she left our house talking into a dictaphone. It didn't take a genius to work out that it was a bad situation.
20. There was never explanation given of Jeff's behaviour. Jeff would be up all night and mum would have to sit up with him. Jeff was delusional and he had access to all sorts of needles and syringes, and we had kids in the house. I remember sitting up with Jeff one night thinking about what I would do if he stuck one of his needles into me. I wondered how much more I could take.
21. I went to see Doctor Johnson (Jeff and my mums doctor) not long after. He told me that I needed to continue looking after Jeff. I thought to myself 'I don't know whether I can'. I remember saying to him that I thought I might be HIV positive. He told me that it was very unlikely, and he said 'if you have the test it will affect your life insurance and everything you do, I don't think you have got it', I was becoming very stressed and it affected all aspects of my life, my marriage, my kids and my work.
22. We went round to mums one day and Jeff was sitting under the table wearing mums clothes. Mum was in the corner crying her eyes out because of the whole situation. We decided we would call the doctor and Jeff was sectioned and admitted into hospital. He was sectioned into a unit called Clatterbridge in 1994.
23. Within 24 hours the hospital called and told us that they cannot keep him there because he was too ill physically. His physical condition was

so poor that it came above his mental condition. He was transferred 2 days later to 7Y, the blood ward at the Royal Liverpool.

24. He was on anti-psychotic drugs and they told us that it was highly likely that he wouldn't survive a month; this was in November 1994, he actually survived until June 1995.
25. Jeff went from about 11 stone to 6 stone because of the HIV and HCV. He got to the point where he looked like he had starved. His eyes were huge and his eye sockets were deep and sunken.
26. Jeff's dementia got worse and worse and he would have intense hallucinations. He began losing his sight and he was in and out of consciousness for months. When Jeff realised that his immune system was failing and that he was going to die he had a complete mental breakdown. Jeff also went through a period of kidney failure, it seemed as though his internal organs were failing and we were told that we needed to prepare for the worst.
27. We only told close friends about Jeff being infected, and the people we told were really frightened and so we decided not to tell anyone else. We lied and told people that although he did take Factor VIII, he was lucky and he hadn't been infected. The impact this had on me was that I felt like I was living a total lie.
28. The fact that Jeff wasn't able to live a normal life really impacted him. He really wanted to be able to have his own family the way that Jackie and I did.

29. When my wife, Alison had our oldest daughter Anna, we didn't know what to do because we hadn't been given any guidance on how easily HIV could be passed on. Alison decided that she would allow Jeff full access to the baby whilst he was alive, and although we did worry about it, we didn't know what else to do. There was no advice or support for us, no help, just adverts on the TV with tombstones calling it a "plague", how are you supposed to deal with that when your in your early 20's like I was?
30. The impact of Jeff being infected with HIV on my father was cataclysmic. My father was absolutely devastated when it dawned on him that it wasn't actually the Haemophilia that would kill Jeff, but the deadly infection that he had contracted from infected blood products.
31. One day, I received a call from Jeff in a panic stating that the GP had called for an ambulance because he suspected that my dad had suffered a heart attack. I was at work at the time and I told Jeff that I couldn't leave work. He had had a heart attack and by the time I had got to the hospital he had died. He was only 53.
32. I believe that this was a direct result of what happened to Jeff. I never saw my dad cry or anything, but he told me that it ate away at him every day. He was extremely angry.
33. After the passing of Jeff, my mum retreated to the point where she wouldn't get dressed. She couldn't cope and she gave up her house. She resented me and Jackie and I believe that this was because we survived and Jeff didn't.

34. I only accepted later on in life that my mother was abusive. When I got my third degree she asked me "what the fucking point was". My younger sister tried really hard to have a good relationship with mum but it was very difficult. Mum passed away 4 years ago.
35. I have been impacted greatly by all of this. I cannot go to hospital and I really struggle to go to the doctor, this is a trust issue. I have had to have CBT and I was recently diagnosed with stage 2 hypertension.
36. I discovered later on in life that I constantly challenge people in authority because I naturally assume that people are hiding something. This is an issue that I have struggled with since losing my brother. I believe that the situation with Jeff has greatly impacted my personality.
37. I have never let go. I believe that my brother was 'murdered'. I have had counselling and I don't make any friends. It has affected my career and my education. I don't have any friends and I don't keep in touch with anyone. I will never get over this.
38. After Jeff had died people began finding out that he was infected with HIV. Close friends became very angry with us for lying over the years because they had allowed Jeff around their children. They felt like we had put them at risk. I had a cousin who lived nearby and when they found out about them they asked us how dare we let him in their home and ridiculed us for making the decision for them. Within 6 months of Jeff dying we sold our house and moved out of the area.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

39. I am unaware of Jeff ever receiving any psychological support.
40. When Jeff fell and fractured his hip, the hospital told him that he needed a hip replacement but they couldn't find a surgeon that was willing to do the operation because of the HIV and Haemophilia.
41. Jeff couldn't walk for ages and was in a huge amount of pain. Eventually he had a hip replacement around the time my wife was pregnant in 1985.
42. There was a district nurse that came to visit. The first thing she said to Jeff was 'I understand that you're a drug addict'. We were very offended and explained that Jeff was not a drug addict but he was addicted to Diamorphine. She then said that she didn't know what she could do for us because she isn't allowed to touch Jeff as he was HIV positive. Alison was sitting at the far end of the table and Alison leaned over and hugged Jeff, to prove a point. We were all very upset with the way that she had treated Jeff and she was asked to leave the house.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

43. After Jeff had been infected, Macfarlane trust letters starting coming through regarding compensation. Jeff eventually got £20,000. I'm not aware of him receiving anything else apart from the normal disability benefits.

44. When Jeff received the Macfarlane money, there was a clause that stated that if you get any other infections/diseases in the future you cannot claim anything else. The letter said that nobody is liable for what happened to you but this is the money you are being offered. If you don't sign it you won't get any money, and if you don't accept it, you will be doing other people out of their money. He felt compelled to sign it.

45. He started driving around the country visiting family. When he got the money he kept it to himself and this caused a rift between mum and Jeff. He travelled to America and went on a few Cruises. He began making the most of his life.

46. He made the money last. He paid for my driving lessons, and he bought Jackie a second hand car.

Section 8. Other Issues

47. Six months after Jeff was told that he was infected with HIV, my dad and I received letters stating that we were no longer needed to give blood. There was never an explanation given for this.

48. It is difficult to put into words the effect that this situation had on my brother and my family. To believe that a cure has been found for a life threatening and painful condition such as Haemophilia, and then finding out that actually it is the 'cure' that will bring about a premature death to the loved one, creates a pain that is unexplainable.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C _____

Dated 19/3/19 _____