



Witness Name: David William Lane

Statement No.: WITN0038001

Exhibits: WITN0038002

Dated: 17 April 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID WILLIAM LANE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 09 December 2018.

I, David William Lane, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is David William Lane. My date of birth is GRO-C 1955 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am a business owner in GRO-C GRO-C and I live with my wife, son, and grandson two nights per week. I intend to speak about my Father Bill. In particular, the nature of if his illness with Hepatitis C, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.

Section 2. How Affected

2. Dad was always a fairly healthy and outgoing man who would go to boot sales every weekend. He wasn't an academic but he was brilliant when it came to practical matters, and did numerous jobs throughout his life. He was a moulder, a bus driver, did watch and car repairs, and was also a delivery driver. By the mid 60's he was running his own shop. Cars were his obsession. He would come home with a heap of rubbish, and two years down the line he would have made a car, he was brilliant.
3. Over a period of time, we noticed that dad started to become very weak. He was sleeping 18 - 20 hours per day and was constantly in agony. We could see clearly that he was deteriorating, and we thought that it must have been his other medications causing the problem. We would go to visit him and he wouldn't even know that we had been to visit.
4. Mum was getting very worried about him and she started recording his health daily in a diary. He had lost total interest in the things that had once brought him great joy. I was unable to find this diary when I looked for it.
5. Dad had a stomach ulcer as a child, and he had an issue with his stomach all his life. His ulcer burst a few times. In 1989 he went to the Whiston Hospital in Merseyside, because he had lost a lot of blood through the back passage. He had a blood transfusion, as he needed three pints of blood, but was never told about any risks.
6. A letter then came through the post totally out of the blue in 1995. It wasn't recorded delivery or anything; it was like an invite to a sale. It said 'in 1989 the donor was infected with Hepatitis C – please see your doctor'. We were all absolutely gobsmacked.

7. When dad went to the GP, the doctor didn't really know much about the issue. He was then referred to Whiston Hospital. He had a biopsy and pieces of his liver were taken. I remember him telling us that it was very painful. Two weeks later they sent a letter telling him he had Hepatitis C, he went away wondering what the future holds.
8. I saw the letter because I was at the family house the day it arrived. The GP didn't know anything about Hepatitis C, all he did was put the fear of God in dad. He received the letter in 1995, and he was gone by 1998. He died four weeks after his 65th birthday on the 24th April 1998. The investigators have taken a photograph of my dad's Death Certificate and it is exhibited as **WITN0038002**.
9. Dad wasn't given any information about how to protect himself and to ensure nothing was passed on to mum through sexual contact. **GRO-C**

GRO-C

Section 3. Other Infections

10. Other than Hepatitis C, I am not aware of dad having any other infection as a result of the transfusion.

Section 4. Consent

11. To my knowledge, dad was never given any adequate information about the risks of the transfusion. It was just, if you needed the blood, you needed it, end of story.

Section 5. Impact

12. Dad's stomach was very painful. His quality of life had completely deteriorated. Before the letter, nobody could put their finger on what the issue was – including the medics. They just disregarded him as an old man. Even GRO-D would tell him to 'just get up' thinking he was exaggerating or playing around. He didn't feel like my dad anymore, he had no 'get up and go'.
13. First his eyes started going, then he got Parkinson's disease and couldn't even hold a telephone. He went from 18 stone to about 8 stone.
14. We had to take him to the toilet and do everything for him. He just wasn't the same bloke at all. It totally drained him; he was probably depressed although he was never diagnosed with anything, as far as I am aware. He would just sleep all day.
15. Mum wanted to live on her own after dad died. I would go and visit her but she would often fall over and injure herself because she was alone.
16. Mum became extremely ill GRO-C
GRO-C I believe this was a result of her losing dad. They were like 'velcro' together, and never left each others side.
17. When dad began deteriorating, mum hid a lot of the issues from us kids. I think that was her way of trying to protect us. She also didn't want people to see her pain. I believe this had a very negative impact on her. After a great deal of pain and suffering mum died on 11th October 2017. She never got over what happened to my dad. The nursing team that looked after her said that she was GRO-C that they had ever dealt with in their entire career.

18. Many people that were infected with HCV also had liver issues and Cirrhosis. Why was my dad never tested to find out if he had this? We were told he had secondary stomach cancer.
19. Dad took out a £20,000 loan at 61 against our house which my mum still owed when she passed on October 11ⁿ 2017.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

20. Dad got worst within six months of the letter coming through the post. The doctors told him about interferon. He tried this medication but it was totally knocking him over. It was just too much for him, maybe because it was too late. He would sleep at 2 in the afternoon and wake up half past 7 in the morning. It was like there was no medical help. Nobody cared; you were just an inconvenience to medical staff.
21. They made it seem as though dad was asking for too much wanting to be on Interferon. They would say things like 'do you not realise how expensive these drugs are'. This was at Whiston – the hospital that gave him the infected blood in the first place. I can't recall dad being given any real advice, but mum and dad did keep a lot to themselves. Mum didn't want anyone to worry.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

22. They were never offered any help financially. Mum was given £7200 from the litigation, but that was after dad died. This was paid from the 'blood bank' after the Judge's ruling in March 2001. The solicitor received £9000, and mum got £7200 of that; after expenses. At that time, they didn't even properly know what had caused dad's death.

Section 8. Other Issues

23. They told us dad had cancer but I was always doubtful. We had to identify dad's body but we weren't even allowed to kiss him on the night he died. This might have been because of the hepatitis, I'm not too sure.
24. I had to identify his body three days after his death at Omskirk Hospital. He passed away at the hospice and was transferred to the hospital when the police became involved. When we saw him at the hospice he was white. Three days later when we saw him and he was bright orange. The officer said they had never seen anyone that colour before. They then took his body away to Preston.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

DAVID WILLIAM LANE

Dated

17th April 2019