

Witness Name: KAY PAINTER

Statement No: WITN1453001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: FEBRUARY 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KAY PAINTER

I, Kay Painter, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Kay Painter. I was born on GRO-C 1964 and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C Cornwall GRO-C
2. My father, Jeffrey Arthur Smith (born on GRO-C 1937) was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products. He died from liver cancer on 19th April 1917 aged 80.
3. My sister Sally has given her own Statement to the Inquiry (Witness Number WITN1611001).
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father had mild hemophilia A. He was diagnosed with it from birth. Hemophilia ran in his family.
6. My father was treated at the Truro Hemophilia Centre, The Royal Cornwall (Treliske) Hospital, under the care of Dr Helena Daly and Dr Creagh. My father rarely needed Factor VIII (FVIII) treatment and never at home. My father was only really treated with FVIII at dental appointments.
7. My father was told that he had HCV by a junior doctor at hospital in the late 1980s or the early 1990s. The junior doctor announced the news in a casual manner, thinking that my father already knew. The doctor did not know that my father had been given a contaminated blood product and had become infected with HCV in that way. My father did not know what HCV was. The junior doctor told him that it was a 'nasty thing' to have and that he might only have 10 years to live.
8. It was later established that my father was infected with HCV when he was treated with FVIII ahead of a circumcision in 1986 or 1987. He had not been treated with FVIII on any other occasion within the requisite time period given.
9. My father was not given any information or advice beforehand about the risk of exposure to infection from contaminated blood products. FVIII was made available to hemophiliacs to give them a normal life, but it had the opposite effect. My father was shocked that he had HCV.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. I do not believe that my father received any other infection than HCV through infected blood products.

Section 4. Consent

11. My father was identified as having HCV but did not know about the test and the positive result. He did not provide his consent to being tested. Conversely he knew and agreed to tests for HIV/AIDS in the late 1980s/early 1990s.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

12. I was in my early twenties when the news about people becoming infected through contaminated blood products came out. I was out and about and living my own life when my father was told that he had HCV. I have found out a lot in recent years. I now know that my father was tested for HIV/AIDS and he was tested over a number of years. My parents kept that from me because of the associated stigma. I cannot imagine what they must have gone through in terms of worry about HIV/AIDS in addition to knowing my father had HCV.

13. Since my father passed away. I have spent a lot of time with my mother and we have spoken in depth about what happened. My father was a self employed electrician. He had to go for tests on a regular basis and forgo the earnings he would have lost as a result. We did not have a lot of money and very rarely had a family holiday. My father had to juggle work, family life and his health. He was an amazing man and I do not know how he dealt with it all. My parents were both worried sick at that time. My father told my mother GRO-C
GRO-C She had said 'well if you get it, I'll have it too'. She meant that she was prepared to suffer the same fate as my father. She was 'old school' as was my father. What a difficult choice for her to have to make. My mother did not have any testing for HCV or HIV.

14. My father had many doctors over the years and a variety of tests and scans. He saw Dr Hussaini, Consultant Hepatologist at the Royal Cornwall Hospital. I do

not recall the name of the doctor he saw in Plymouth. He had cirrhosis of the liver and was diagnosed with liver cancer a few years ago, directly attributable to HCV.

15. At some point in time my father realized that his medical notes of which there were many were contained in what he called hazard tape implying that this was some sort of unpleasant medical circumstance or condition that pointed him out as contagious to all intents and purposes. He complained to the hospital at the time and the tape was removed and his notes were made to look more "normal".
16. My father endured a number of uncomfortable and painful procedures to try to combat/slow the cancer down, all of which he bore with dignity and strength. I remember that he asked about a liver transplant at one stage and was told that he was too old. One of his treatments involved him being strapped to a board to be held in a specific crucifix-like position during treatment. He had had a fall in the garden and had injured his shoulder. It was very painful for him to remain still in that position.
17. For a while it was thought that he had made a slight improvement with the treatment and then he was told that he had just months to live. We lost him just weeks later due to a bleed to one of the nodules caused by HCV. I received a phone call the morning after he was admitted to hospital. When I visited him he said 'I don't want to go'. He was so resilient and always bounced back, I could not contemplate that he would not pull through and I received a phone call from Sally early the next morning to say he had gone.
18. My father was always a fighter. He got on with life and never let anything stop him. Even when the doctor told him he had months to live, he was making household repairs and improvements. I remember stumbling upon him one day when he was in the garden fixing the electric socket by the pond. I said 'Dad, what are you doing?' and he responded with 'people will need this done' by

which I knew he meant we would need the pond in working order when he had died. I feel very emotional when I think of that conversation.

19. I am one of four siblings and we are left devastated. My mother and father were married for 59 years. They lived together in their dream house in the countryside. My mother will be 81 years old this year. She has lost the love of her life and now lives alone, isolated from other people. All my siblings work full time and she relied upon me to step into my father's shoes and help her on a daily basis. I, up until a week ago worked on a part time basis and have had little time to myself for the last twenty months. My life has been on hold. Due to financial constraints I have now had to seek full time employment leaving my mother in the situation of having to sell her and my father's dream home as she is not able to maintain it and it is so very isolated that now she no longer sees me on a daily basis it is too big for her to manage and she can drive but won't drive. We are all affected as now we have to try and juggle working full time and still caring for an elderly lady. It can be extremely stressful.

20. My father's grandchildren and great grandchildren miss him so much. I have two nephews GRO-C
GRO-C

21. My father was always a strong positive role model as head of his household and family of which he was extraordinarily proud. He never complained about his lot in life and the hand that had been dealt him. Even when he had to undergo tests over several years to make sure he had not contracted AIDS, he endured them stoically and with enormous courage. He continued in his everyday life supporting his family with love and pride.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

22. My father had interferon clearing treatment which was unsuccessful and made him very sick.

23. I do not believe my father to have been offered counselling or psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

24. My father was a kind and generous man. He gave each of his children £1,000 from his first capital payment from the Skipton Fund. He wanted us to have the money because he had never before been able to give us anything. My mother said 'we would rather have you in good health'. She spoke the words that we all felt.

Section 8. Other Issues

25. My father followed the Penrose Inquiry and anything related to contaminated blood with avid interest. I remember my father once commenting that he was glad he had got HCV later in life because the younger people infected with the virus had their lives taken from them before they had began. He was a selfless man.

26. He said on his 70th birthday that he did not think he would reach that age. When he got to the age of 80 we had a big family picture commissioned and within a few months he had gone. He had so much left in him. When the Inquiry was announced we all said just how thrilled our father would have been to know something was finally happening. Innocent people have been murdered and someone has to be accountable.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

27. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this Statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I am willing 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

26/2/2019