Witness Name: JON TRIBBECK
Statement No: WITN1573001
Exhibits: WITN1573002
Dated: JANUARY 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JON TRIBBECK

I, Jon Tribbeck, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Jon Tribbeck. I was born on the GRO-C 1969 and I live at GRO-C with my sister.

2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records.

Section 2. How infected

3. I have mild Haemophilia A. I was diagnosed at an early age. I am not aware of anyone else in the family with haemophilia. My mother is a carrier.

4. I was treated at the Salisbury Haemophilia Centre at the Salisbury District Hosplital, Odstock under the care of Dr Parry (and Dr Pinkerton) throughout my childhood and into the 1990s. I am now under the care of Dr Everington.

5. I was infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of being given contaminated blood products.

6. I was treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) on an ad hoc basis whenever I cut myself, had a tooth extraction or an operation

7. I was told that I had HCV in 1995 or 1996 by Dr Parry. I was called into the hospital for an appointment and I was told there and then. Dr Parry informed me that he thought I contracted HCV (referred to then as Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis) when I was treated with FVIII ahead of a tooth extraction in 1981. I refer to **Exhibit WITN1573002** being a copy letter dated 24th April 1996 confirming the probable date as 1981 from cryoprecipitate FVIII.

8. Prior to that meeting I do not believe that I was told that my blood was going to be tested for hepatitis. I do however recall being told that my blood was being tested for HIV.

9. I had to undergo a liver biopsy which, with haemophilia, was, to say the least, very traumatising and painful.

10. When Dr Parry informed me of the diagnosis, he told me that I had it 'mildly'. I was told that the infection could be spread through blood to blood contact and through sex. I was told that the infection dies outside the body after one hour and that other people would be pretty safe if they came into contact with your towel or toothbrush after that.

11. At a subsequent appointment, I was also told that life expectancy for patients with HCV was around 20 years from the date of infection. I did the maths in my head and worked out that I should already be dead. That was a terrifying thought. I do not believe that there were any treatment options available to me at that time.

12. I was upset and angry and pursued a negligence action with legal aid to no avail. It got stopped dead in it's tracks for what ever reason. Then, in approximately 2003, I received a £20,000 ex gratia payment through the

Skipton Fund. I was told if cirrhosis developed a further £25,000 payment would be made.

Section 3. Other Infections

13. I am not aware of any infection other than HCV as a result of being given contaminated blood products.

Section 4. Consent

14. I believe it likely that I was tested without my knowledge and consent as I do not recall being told that I was being tested for hepatitis. I am certain that I went without being given adequate or full information as the HCV diagnosis came as a shock to me.

15. The doctors were able to identify/pinpoint the year that I became infected with HCV. I assume that I was tested over a long period of time given that I was infected as far back as 1981 and a log of batch dates recorded.

16. I was treated for the purposes of research. I did not realise when I started the clearing treatment that it was in fact a treatment trial as I was told it had a 70% chance of clearing the HCV.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

17. Having HCV and treatment has ruined my life. My marriage broke down and I lost the home that we owned. When I learned of the HCV diagnosis, my GRO-C (from a previous relationship).

18. The possibility of clearing treatment was raised by my consultant on two occasions. I researched the side effects and they appeared to me to be too severe to warrant an attempt when the success rate was not that high.

Treatment came under discussion for a third time in 2003 and I felt that I needed to accept rather than risk further liver disease/damage.

19. The treatment was horrible. I injected myself every week with Pegylated Interferon and took Ribavirin tablets for 6 months. I took the injection on a Friday evening in order to recover sufficiently from the side effects to enable me to work during the week. The side effects were so awful I was unable to even think about work until Tuesday and I would dread Fridays. I worked as a self employed Electrician but could not carry on as I was letting my client's down. Ultimately I took a job, on the cards, with a company owned by a friend so that I had some form of (lesser) reliable income.

20. During treatment I had no appetite for food and was nothing but skin and bone. I lost so much weight that I weighed just 10 stone. I had flu like symptoms. I was run down and felt very groggy. I had insomnia and suffered with night sweats. The treatment changed my temperament and behaviour, making me less tolerant of others and quick to anger. I was very depressed and had huge mood swings.

21. The treatment proved successful but cost me my marriage and subsequently my home. It had to be sold and the proceeds divided between us when we divorced. There was not enough equity for either of us to purchase a home of our own. My family members were traumatised. They all thought I was living on borrowed time and that I was going to die. I now live with my sister.

22. My physical health has been badly affected. Before being informed I had HCV, I felt unwell. I have had back problems since the 1990s and was, on one occasion, referred to a physiotherapist. The advice I received from the physiotherapist was to exercise at the gym and strengthen my core muscles. I used to ride a motor bike and go skiing every year so I knew that my core muscle strength was not the issue. My GP turned me down

when I asked to be tested for cancer. I pushed for tests because I felt so unwell.

23. The doctors had said that I am too young to have prostate cancer because men in their mid to late fifties are the typical age group for that form of cancer. I have since been diagnosed with prostate cancer and had a radical prostectomy in June 2016. It came back in 2017. I then had radiotherapy which concluded in October of that year. I was one year clear of cancer on 31st of October 2018.

24. I am in no doubt in my mind that I would not have had prostate cancer had I not been infected with HCV. Having HCV statistically increases the risk of prostate cancer. I knew something was very wrong as long ago as the 2010. I have also recently been diagnosed with colitis.

25. I have continued to suffer with the side effects I experienced whilst having HCV treatment in 2004. I still have night sweats and insomnia. I am fatigued and am always groggy and tired, even whilst working. I am like a run down teenager with spots all over my face and body and I have rosacea. I was quite laid back before the treatment but snap now more than I used to and it has cost me my relationships. I am currently single.

26. I have had no counselling and have been treated like a leper when accessing treatment at the hospital. The doctors and nurses always put on gloves, even the nurses taking blood. Throughout my prostate cancer treatment my notes were flagged up with big yellow stickers marked 'danger of infection'. It is degrading. It is impossible for me to obtain another mortgage and I can no longer access life insurance.

27. I have always instinctively known that I must keep my HCV diagnosis to myself for fear of being ostracised at work. People link HCV with HIV and with dirty needles. They wonder what else you might have if you have HCV. I am very careful and have never let people clean up my blood. I

still do so now even though I have cleared the HCV. It still plays on my mind even now.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

28. I have not been offered any counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

29. I a £20,000 Stage 1 payment from the Skipton fund. I used the money to buy a van so that I could continue working. After being made redundant, I have not had any other financial help. I have since discovered that others were getting monthly payments on top of the £20,000.

Section 8. Other Issues

30. There are no other issues.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

31. Whilst I am not seeking anonymity, I would like my address redacted before publication. I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I wish to give oral evidence at the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed. GRO-C ....

Dated 20-2-2019