

Witness Name: ANTONY BATH

Statement No: WITN1627001

Exhibits: WITN1627002-WITN1627003

Dated: June 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANTONY BATH

I, ANTONY BATH will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Antony Bath. I live at GRO-C
GRO-C, Surrey, GRO-C and I was born on GRO-C 1979. I was an only child. I have a son called GRO-C who is GRO-C
2. My dad, David Waugh, was born on GRO-C 1955. He passed away on the 22 July 2000, aged 45. His death was a result of being infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late dad's medical records.

Section 2. How infected

4. My dad suffered from severe Haemophilia A.

5. I believe my dad was under the care of St Thomas' Hospital London as my dad took me there a few times. I believe he picked up his medication from Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey.
6. When my dad was ill near the end of his life I think he would have been treated at Exeter Hospital in Devon. His death certificate states he passed away at the Royal Free Hospital in London.
7. There is a possibility that my dad may have attended Treloar College as a child. I have a memory of him taking me to a school and telling me that this was the boarding school he had attended. We walked around the grounds of the school, and I remember running up a concrete ramp. My father's family was poor and lived on a council estate - I cannot imagine them being able to pay private boarding school fees. I found out about Treloar College in recent years when I started reading about the infected blood scandal. Although I cannot be sure, I think this may have been the school my dad attended. I have tried to make enquiries with the school but have not had a reply.
8. My dad was treated with Cryoprecipitate and Factor VIII concentrate (Factor VIII). He had little bottles in the fridge which I believe were Factor VIII. I was told not to touch these bottles and I remember that he would inject his left hand with them. It seemed like my dad had Factor VIII quite frequently but I was young at the time so do not know for sure. I believe he would have received contaminated products in the 1970s or 1980s.
9. I have attached to this statement marked Exhibit WITN1627002 an extract from the National Haemophillia Database (NHD) which shows the treatments that my father received between 1968 and 2000 and the haemophillia centres which gave him these treatments.
10. My dad was infected with HCV and HIV as a result of being given contaminated blood products. I attach to this statement, marked WITN1627003 a document from the NHD which suggests that my father first

tested positive for HIV in 1985. I do not know when he first tested positive for HCV.

11. I do not know what information my father was provided with when he was told of his infections.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I do not know if my dad was infected with Hepatitis B as well or any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

13. I do not know if my dad was treated or tested without his knowledge or consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

14. My mum fell pregnant with me when she was 16 years old. She came from a well to do family and my dad was not from the same walk of life. My parents were not married and they were not together for long.

15. After I was born, GRO-C my dad got custody of me. I lived with my dad when I was a baby and for a lot of my primary school years. At one point I lived with my nan, my grandmother on my mother's side. I went back to live with my mum not long before I started secondary school.

16. GRO-D

17. When I lived with my mum, I saw my dad every other weekend. We would go away fishing. I was the navigator and I would pick somewhere and we would go there. I looked forward to spending weekends with my dad. He had a pushbike and when we were not fishing, I would sit in the back of that pushbike and go everywhere with him.
18. All the happy memories of my childhood were of times spent with my dad.
19. As a young child, I did not understand how severe my dad's illness was. I recall an occasion when I was 6 or 7 years old when my dad sat at the end of my bed and said to me *'I'm not going to be here all your life'*. He said *'Daddy is not very well'*. He did not go into too much detail because of my age. I don't know if he told me that he had HIV or if he mentioned HCV. If he did tell me, it didn't sink in because I was so young.
20. I knew that my dad had haemophilia and that he had to be careful if he hurt himself. I remember him going to the hospital with bleeds from time to time. I remember the bottles in the fridge that he injected himself with. I remember my dad taking a lot of medication but never really appreciated what the medication was for. He had a walking stick and a bend in his leg that he never recovered from but I don't know what that was from.
21. My dad kept a lot to himself. This may have been because he did not want to upset me.
22. My dad may have mentioned his infection to me as a young man but if he did I just heard the letters 'HIV', I did not research it, and it never clicked. He did say to me once that he felt robbed as he was not going to live his life out. I understood what he meant but I never appreciated just how short his life was going to end up being. It was several years after my father's death that I finally understood the full implications of his infections.
23. When I became a teenager I started to be more independent and during this time I did not spend as much time with my dad. My life at home with my mum

was difficult. I was not happy with who I was, I dropped out of school and I turned down a dark path. It is not something I am proud of.

24. I was at a party at the age of 17 and I called my mum and asked her to come for me. She didn't come and I decided to walk over to my dad's home. I told him I was having a bad time and he said '*me too*'. He told me he was going to Devon the next day as he did not want to stay in the area anymore. I have since found out from my grandmother on my mother's side that the reason he did not want to stay there was because his family had told everybody about his infected status. That night he told me '*if I can give you any advice don't have anything to do with my side of the family*'. **GRO-D**.

25. I went with my dad to Devon the next day and I ended up moving there with him. I lived with my dad in Devon for just over a year and it was the best thing for me. It cleared my head. I stopped drinking, I went to college in Exeter and I felt like I grew up. That time with my dad was very special to me. I will never forget it.

26. After just over a year I thought I was a bit too young to live in the country, so I moved back to Surrey. I was 18 years old.

27. Over the next three years, I lost contact with my dad; we just had the odd telephone call. I was going through some difficult times myself and I did not know how serious his illness was. Although I knew I wouldn't have him forever, I thought 'one day' was a long way away.

28. I passed my driving test in my early 20s. I was very excited about this and decided that I would drive over to Devon to see my dad. I bumped into my dad's sister's daughter (my cousin) on a night out and I told her of my plan to drive to Devon to see my dad. She said '*you can't do that because we went to his funeral a year ago*'. I just lost it, I couldn't believe that my dad had died and that no one had told me. No one had even told me that he was ill. I kept asking '*how could you not tell me?*'

29. I went home and told my mum what I heard. My mum telephoned Barry (my dad's friend) and he confirmed it. He said he could not believe I did not know. I couldn't believe he had been dead for over a year and I only just found out. Not one of his sisters, cousins or his mother thought to contact me, even though they knew I lived in the area. How did they arrange a funeral without me?

30. I have now learnt that my dad's sister dealt with his estate and her name was on the death certificate. I have also been told that my dad lost his mind when the illness kicked in. My dad's death certificate states that he died from upper gastrointestinal bleeding, Hepatitis C cirrhosis, Haemophilia and HIV.

31. I went off the rails when I found out my dad had died. I didn't really care about anything. I felt I had lost something really special. I had a lot of guilt. I battled with this for years and blamed myself because I should have picked up the phone and called my dad. We never fell out, we just lost contact.

32. All the good memories from my childhood were from my dad. It breaks my heart that I was not with him when he needed me the most. I carried anger in me because I could not believe I was not told. I worried about what his family would have said to him about me and that he could have been made to believe that I didn't care enough to come. I lived in pain for a few years.

33. A close friend of mine suffers from haemophilia. I had a number of conversations with him in my late 20s and it was then that the penny dropped about my dad's illness and this was when I started to look into the cause of his death.

34. I bumped into my cousin again on a train about 10 years ago. She gave me a hug and said I looked like my dad.

GRO-D

GRO-D

35. When my dad died, I never even asked whether he had a Will. I did not go to a solicitor. To this day I don't know if he left any money. I still miss my dad and I grieve over losing him.
36. My dad was my hero. He did so much for me. As a young boy he was everything to me. He taught me to be sharp. He had little pranks and kept me on my toes. He had a 'wishing cupboard' when I was younger. He told me that if I wished into the cupboard, my wishes could sometimes come true. I would go to the cupboard and wish for a new toy. He would ask me what I wished for and a week or so later I would check the cupboard and often the toy I had wished for would be there!
37. He took me on 3 week holidays to Mexico, Gran Canaria and Scotland. He knew I wanted to go to Disney World and he paid for my mum and I to go on two holidays to Florida. I have since realised that the reason my dad could not take me himself to Florida was because he would not have been allowed into the United States of America due to his HIV infection.
38. My dad and I were mad on fishing. We would go to places for the weekend and fish. He had fishing rods with our names on them. I would have liked to have gotten the fishing gear when he died, so that I could carry on our fishing tradition with my own son.
39. My dad said to me that when he died, he would like me to put his ashes in a very nice river. I never got to do this.
40. I only own one photo of my dad. I would have liked to get some pictures from his home after he died but I was never given the opportunity. I know where my dad's grave is but I have not visited his grave yet. I cannot bring myself to go.
41. There was a lot of stigma attached to HIV at the time my dad had it. I found out from my grandmother that he suffered as a result of the stigma attached to HIV and that this was the reason he had chosen to move away to Devon.

42. I am sad that my dad did not get to meet my son. My mum died of cancer. GRO-C won't meet any of his grandparents. I want to be as good a dad to my little boy as my dad was to me.

43. When he lived in Surrey, my dad had a cleaning contract with Solomon (the local Ford garage) – he supplied them with cleaners and would go over to inspect the work done. He used to sell coffee to companies as well.

44. After he moved to Devon, I think he still had the cleaning contract with Solomon but other than that he did not have a job.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

45. I was offered counseling once when I was 10 or 11 years old. A lady took me for a walk at St Thomas Hospital. She sat me on a bench and asked '*have you thought about counselling?*' I told her my dad does not need counselling, and she said she was referring to me. I told her I did not need counselling.

46. That is the only time I have been asked about counselling. Looking back I think I would have benefited from counselling.

47. I do not think my dad got any counselling.

48. I think more could have been done to support my dad. I know so little about it and I think that's because not enough was done.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

49. I believe my dad was part of the litigation that ended in 1991. I am not sure of the exact amount that he received, but it may have been anywhere between £20,000 and £40,000.

50. I do not know if my dad had to sign a waiver to be entitled to the money but it seems likely.

51. I don't know if my dad received any other money.

Section 8. Other Issues

52. I would like to know the truth about what happened to my dad, and so many others like him.

53. My dad lost his life for no reason. The treatment he was given should have benefitted him and made him feel better. I feel for my dad and the pain he must have been going through.

54. If there is justice to be done for him, I want to play my part in making sure it happens. I would like to think that if my dad is somewhere looking down, he will have a smile on his face if he saw me.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

55. I am not seeking anonymity. However I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I would **not** like to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed...

GRO-C

Dated

25-06-2019