

Witness Name: Nyisha Nasara Francis

Statement No: WITN1223001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 22 February 2019

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF NYISHA NASARA FRANCIS**

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I, Nyisha Nasara Francis will say as follows:-

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is Nyisha Nasara Francis. My date of birth is 9 April 1980. I live at 135 Williams Way, Wembley, London, HAQ 2FP.
2. This witness statement is prepared as the daughter of Earl Wellesley Scott who was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C from contaminated blood. My father was born in Jamaica in October 1956 (I am not sure the exact date) and he moved this country to live in 1968.
3. My father died on 29 January 1993. He was aged 36 at the date of his death.

#### **Medical records**

4. My father was treated at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington in London (SMH). In June 2011, I sent a request to SMH for all of my father's medical records but it sent me only 4 pages from his medical file. By letter I was informed "...all

*historic records have been destroyed..". If this is correct, I believe crucial evidence has been concealed from the Inquiry.*

5. I have prepared this statement without the benefit of access to all my father's medical records. I was only 12 years old when my father died so I have had to turn to family members who have assisted me complete it.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

### **Family history**

6. I have one half sister and one half brother. All three of us have the same father but different mothers. I was conceived from my father's second relationship. My older half sister was conceived from my father's first relationship and my younger half brother was conceived from my father's third relationship.
7. I was 7 years old when my parents separated in 1987. After their separation, I moved into my mother's home. Despite their separation, I continued to see my father. This was for a few hours everyday after school. Upon returning from work, my mother would collect me and take me back home. I saw my father on most weekends and school holidays. This was the normal routine up until he died.
8. My father suffered from severe Haemophilia A. I do not know whether he suffered from any other bleeds. I believe there are no other sufferers of Haemophilia in the family although I have been diagnosed as a carrier.

### **St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London (SMH)**

9. My father was treated at SMH for his bleeding. Despite suffering from this condition, he led a happy life as a Music Promoter and was fully committed to

his children. His life changed for the worse when he was infected with HIV and hepatitis C.

10. I believe my father was occasionally detained in SMH to undergo blood transfusions. This was before FVIII became available to treat haemophiliacs. I believe my father was under the care of Doctor Claydon, the main consultant in the Haemophiliac Department.

11. I know my father was treated with FVIII products because he used to keep these products in bottles in the fridge at home. I used to see my father inject himself with FVIII products.

12. I do not know when Factor VIII products replaced the transfusions. I believe my father was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C from about 1969 to about 1990 whilst being treated intravenously with FVIII products.

### HIV

13. In 1990 when attending a routine appointment at SMH, my father fainted. I believe that tests carried out by doctors immediately afterwards revealed he was HIV positive. I cannot say for certain that he was infected in 1990. The actual date when the doctors at SMH were aware he was HIV positive should be in his medical file if it still exists.

14. I do not know how and when my father found out that he had contracted HIV. I assume it was the hospital who told him but I do not know for sure. If it was the hospital, it should have informed him sooner than it did. This is because my younger half brother was born in 1986 and my father is unlikely to have taken the risk of having a child when he was HIV positive.

15. I believe SMH failed to advise my father that close family members were at risk of contracting HIV. This is because my step-mother (from the third relationship) contracted HIV from my father and she too died of AIDS on 24

June 1996. If SMH had warned my father that he was HIV positive, her death could have been avoided.

16. SMH sent a letter to my fathers GP that states that my father was “.. *HIV Positive secondary to haemophilia*..” This is one of the 4 letters that SMH has sent to me. This letter is dated 19 October 1992 and is the only confirmation that I have in my possession that proves that SMH were aware my father was infected with HIV.

17. I do not know what information was given to my father about managing the HIV infection. The fact that he tended not to discuss his health with the family may be because the doctors did not tell him anything. If they did, he may have discussed it with us but I cannot say for certain.

18. All I do know is that he was a proud man and he did not want others to know that he was infected with HIV. He felt that this was a disease associated with gay people. It was left to my uncles to tell me and my siblings that he was infected with HIV.

### Hepatitis C

19. I do not know when my father found he was infected with hepatitis C. I do not know whether the doctors informed him that he was infected or whether the information was adequate. I believe that the doctors told my father nothing about this infection.

20. I do not know what information or advice the hospital gave to my father about the treatment he was receiving. However, I do not think he was told he was being treated by contaminated blood and that there were risks that he could contract HIV. I believe my father would not have agreed to continue being treated by blood products that were potentially high risk.

### Section 3. Other Infections

21. I do not know whether my father contracted other infections.

#### **Section 4. Consent**

22. Factor VIII - I believe my father was not informed that FVIII could cause infections. If he knew, my father would not have consented to being treated with them.
23. HIV - I do not know whether the doctors treated my father for his HIV. If he was treated, it was done so without his knowledge or consent. I believe he was tested without his knowledge or consent.
24. Hepatitis C - I do not know whether the doctors treated my father for his hepatitis C. If he was treated, it was done so without his knowledge or consent. I believe he was tested without his knowledge or consent.
25. My mother informs me that my father had requested her to go to hospital to see whether or not she had been infected. I assume at the time he made the call the hospital had informed my father that he was infected.
26. Research - I do not know whether my father was being tested for the purposes of research. It is difficult for me to say without reviewing his medical records.

#### **Section 5. Impact**

##### **On my father**

27. I cannot begin to image how devastated my father must have been when he found out that he was tested HIV positive. He was about 34 years of age and a father of 3 young children. His life was turned upside down because he knew he would not see his young children grow older and get married and have children of their own.

28. My father was a music promoter which he enjoyed doing for a living. He was a family man and made the most of his life, despite his haemophilia. He had full mobility and was always there for his children.
29. Towards the end of his life, my father wanted to spend more time with me and my half brother and half sister. I was in junior school and my father would come and collect me from school and this was the regular routine. I would then stay with him until my mother returned from work.
30. I noticed that my father lost weight and the colour of his skin changed from a caramel brown to dark brown. He started to get more nose bleeds. He did not know whether he would survive. I do not know what treatment was available to him at the time when the doctors found out about his infection and whether or not the doctors made any attempts to save his life.
31. My father took his children to see the country where he was born. He went twice within the space of 2 years. On the first occasion, my father took me and my half sister and on the second occasion, my father took my half brother.
32. When in Jamaica my father walked noticeably slower and I do think that this was the beginning of the time when the HIV began to take a hold on his health. This was sadly the beginning of the end of his life.
33. I do not know whether the HIV contracted by my father affected any other treatment that was receiving.

#### Impact on me

34. I noticed a change in my father's health in the last 18 months of his life. Needless to say, I was devastated when I found out my father was going to die. Even though my parents had separated, I saw my father on a regular basis and had a close bond with him.

35. As a young child of 12 years, I found it particularly difficult to manage without him. I will never have the support of my father. It is difficult for me to say how different my life would have been if he had not been infected. I know I used to look to my father for moral, emotional and financial support but that was all taken away from me and also my siblings.

36. My mother was struggling to provide for me when I was at school. I needed clothing, travelling expenses and other expenses. My father would have been there for me to help out and I missed his general support.

### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

41. I do not know if my father faced difficulties or obstacles in obtaining treatment, care and support after he had been infected with HIV.

42. I do not think psychological support was not available to my father to help him deal with HIV nor was it available to us.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

43. My father was not working when he took us to Jamaica. He was supporting himself. I do not know whether what monies my father received, if any.

### **The Skipton Funds Payments**

44. My auntie told my siblings and I about the Skipton Fund. Upon being advised, I took steps to obtain my father's medical records.

37. In 2011, The Skipton Fund paid an initial sum to my mother in the sum of £20,000. I believe this was for hepatitis C.

38. In 2013, The Skipton Fund paid a further sum to my mother in the sum of £50,000. I believe this was also for hepatitis C.

The Macfarlane Trust Payments

39. In 2002, The Macfarlane Trust paid to me £7000. I believe it also made payments to my half brother and to my half sister but I do not know the amounts.

Section 8. Other Issues

40. The family has been denied access to justice. I know that the hospital have the records that I have requested so I can find out how and why our father died.

41. The NHS was careless in how it treated my father and other haemophiliacs. I have no trust left in the NHS.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

42. I confirm that I do not wish to have anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

43. I do not wish to be called to give oral evidence.

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

  
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Dated this 02 day of February 2019