

Witness Name: Paul I. A. De Padova

Statement No: WITN7241001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: December 2022

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PAUL I. A. DE PADOVA

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I, Paul I. A. De Padova will say as follows:-

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

1. My name is Paul I. A. De Padova. I reside at GRO-C  
GRO-C Derbyshire, GRO-C. I am married with two adult children and 4 grandchildren.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father Luigi De Padova's full medical records. The hospital have confirmed they no longer hold my father's records, having destroyed them in line their policies.

#### **Section 2. How Affected**

3. My father had been diagnosed with Leukaemia and had been informed he would have anything between 6 months to 6 years to live. As part of his treatment for the Leukaemia he had to have blood transfusions on a regular basis, so would go back to the hospital for these regularly. He ended up living for another 7 years after his diagnosis.

4. My father would have his blood transfusion and come home afterwards. He would then suffer for 72 hours, he would be in bed with shivers and deliria. He would complain after every blood transfusion that he didn't feel very well. He would be in bed sweating and shivering. We called the doctor out to him a few times because of this but it became normal, and we expected him to suffer after each blood transfusion.
5. As I remember my father would have had at least 4 blood transfusions each year. I would sometimes go with him, or my mum would go with him in a taxi.
6. I am not aware of my father being given any information or advice about the risk of infection from the blood transfusions. Certainly, when I went with him nothing was mentioned about side effects or risk.
7. As a result of blood transfusions my father received, I believe he was infected with Hepatitis C.
8. My father was not informed while he was being treated he had contracted Hepatitis C, it was only when my father died and the next day we spoke with his consultant and his consultant told us he had died of leukaemia but that he wanted to let us know he also had Hepatitis C when he died. We were not aware of this and not told until the day after my father died at the meeting with the consultant.
9. I don't know how long they knew my father had been infected with Hepatitis C, but he was getting fever and shivers for quite a few years and these started within a year or so of him having the blood transfusions. I remember in the second year of his treatment I complained as they were supposed to be using a filter when giving my father his blood transfusion and they were not doing so.
10. After my father died we were informed not to touch him or give him a kiss or hold him when we went to say goodbye, because of the risk of transmission, when we saw him for the last time he was yellow.

11. I believe they were aware of my father's infection and that it had come from the blood transfusions. If we had been aware of it I would have asked questions in terms of treatment etc., given the symptoms he was having.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

12. I am unaware whether my father contracted any other infections, we were only informed of the Hepatitis C and were only made aware of this once he died. His death certificate does not mention Hepatitis C.

### **Section 4. Consent**

13. I don't know whether my father was ever tested or treated without his consent. I do know that they would test his blood before he had a blood transfusion but I do not know the specifics.

### **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

14. My father suffered with fever, delirium and shivering, we just thought it was all part and parcel of having the blood transfusions, that it was normal for him to suffer with horrendous symptoms for a few days after each one. He was also tired a lot, but we put it all down to the leukaemia as we were unaware of his Hepatitis C infection. He had slowed down progressively over the last 3 or 4 years.

15. My father had been having blood transfusions since he was diagnosed so for around a 7 year period, even up to the end he had a blood transfusion and came home feeling really ill, he didn't want to go back for any more. He slowly got to the stage where he needed morphine on a drip.

16. The infection related symptoms had a horrendous effect on my father and also affected my mother, the effect on her seeing him suffer was terrible.

17. The effect on me, my brother and sister were heart breaking as we felt there was nothing we could do to help.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

18. My father had no treatment for his Hepatitis C, we were not aware of his infection until the day after he died, so no treatment, support or counselling was received.

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

19. We have not had any financial assistance. My father was unaware of his diagnosis and we only found out after he passed away. No one informed us that financial assistance might be available.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

20. After so many years it is difficult to think about. They must have been aware my father had Hepatitis C. I am disappointed that we were not aware of my father's infection status while he was still alive. They should have let him know and he would have informed his family so we would have been aware of the infection.

21. My father had Leukemia and they were always testing his blood so they must have known about the infection. The hospital had a duty to inform him of his infection and they failed in that duty.

22. If the hospital knew my father had Hepatitis C whilst being treated, I believe the QMC had a duty to inform me and my family that my father had contracted Hepatitis C from the blood transfusions for our own protection and to give us the opportunity to support and help our father in any way we could.

**Anonymity**

23. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

24. I do want 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 12. 12. 2022.