

Witness Name: Hazel Busby

Statement No: WITN0072001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 25 July 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF HAZEL BUSBY

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Hazel Busby. My date of birth is GRO-C 1951. My address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I am making this further statement because there are other points I would like to bring to the attention of the inquiry which were not included in my first statement.
3. Impact of losing cousin Martin and way auntie Joan and Uncle Frank were stigmatised and tormented over his condition. Martin was a haemophiliac who contracted HIV though Factor VIII.
4. My uncle lost his job and my auntie was terrified to go to the shops. People threw things at them and their windows. They lived in GRO-C My auntie was petrified to go outside. They didn't let Martin out for fear of what people would do to him or the abuse he might suffer.

5. Martin had to endure nurses coming in with gloves, gowns and masks as if he was a leper. The nurses would make sly digs about him being homosexual, which he wasn't – it wouldn't not have mattered to any of us if he was, but he got HIV through blood products.
6. Martin eventually rotted to death from AIDs aged 19 in front of us all. This was in the 1990s. I will never forget him and I feel I am a representative for him; the only person left to bring up his name at this Inquiry. My very brave cousin Martin Valentine.
7. I also want to add further detail to the impact on my health. Since receiving the transfusion that gave me Hep C I have spent years wondering why I feel so ill. As a very young woman I have suffered terribly from various types of ill health that have been life changing.
8. I suffered from this strange thing when water would pour out of my head – it was like sweat – my hair and head would be soaking. This could happen when I was out in public. Also, I have suffered constantly with fatigue and aches and pains. Whenever I went to the doctor the doctor could not seem to find out what was wrong with me and so I was given anti-depressants = drugs I didn't want. I wasn't depressed I simply did not feel well.
9. Infected 1971. At one stage my doctor sent me into a mental health ward. I was sectioned into the Lister Hospital Stevenage. It was 1973. I presume I was sectioned because they gave me ECT. I have never shared the following. In 1973 I had had Hep C for 2 years. I was suffering from poor physical health and it had an impact on my psychological wellbeing. I was sectioned and given electric shock treatment.

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I was not mad; I was infected with HCV.

10. In 1976 I gave birth to a daughter who had spina bifida and many other health issues. She survived for 20 minutes and then died. I live with the guilt of thinking the infection – the Hep C that I was given through NHS blood - I had was what caused her problems and that I, unknowingly, killed my daughter.
11. In 1977 I was so ill I had to undergo a complete hysterectomy. I have seen in my notes that it states ovarian cancer, but I was never told that at all. The doctors did not know what was wrong with me and so they removed my womb. Now I wonder if they did that to sterilise me because I was infected – this was at the Royal Free London.
12. I had to bring up my 3 children - I wanted to give them the best childhood I could, but I was always unwell. I tried my best but they, at times, almost became little carers. I feel so guilty about that but sometimes I just felt so unwell I could not do things for myself or my children.
13. By the 80s I was so ill I was bedridden – I got the independent living fund. This changed mine and my children's life. That was the modernisation that enables the disabled. I was able to drive – something I never thought I would do.
14. During the 1980s I suffered 2 x DVT. My notes relate to stroke – I just read that last week. I never knew I had a stroke.
15. My bones have crumbled and my knee has crumbled away. I have needed knee surgery. In 1990s I had to undergo spinal surgery. I went through all of this and carried on for my children. And then in 2006 I was given the bombshell that I had HCV. This is detailed in my first witness statement.

16. I want to set out about my brain fog as well. It's like I am not able to think quick enough. I cannot get my words out properly. I cannot really explain what it is like. The brain fog has held me back. I am an intelligent woman – I would have had a good job and I could have given my children the world. That is what I wanted to do but I could not because of this infection. Because of the HCV my family unit has crumbled, my children have drifted away and I do not have the relationship with them that I wish that I could have had with them if I had not been infected with HCV.
17. I am often in a wheelchair and I have been since 1986 – from when I was 35. If I am not in the wheelchair I have to use a stick. My mobility is ruined because of the HCV.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

HAZEL BUSBY

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