

Witness Name: Jeffrey Meaden

Statement No: WITN2375001

Dated: 28th March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JEFFREY MEADEN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry rules 2006 dated 12th December 2018. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, Jeffrey Meaden, will say as follows: -

1. Introduction

1. My name is Jeffrey Meaden. My date of birth is GRO-C 1945 my address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to discuss my wife, Patricia Meaden, her infection of Hepatitis C, and how it has impacted on her, myself and our family. My wife had a blood disorder named Von Willebrands disease.
2. My wife Patricia Meaden died on Sunday 26th January 2014 at the University Hospital of Wales, Heath Park, Cardiff (UHW) of liver failure as a result of her contracting Hepatitis C either through Factor 8 or a blood transfusion.

2. How Infected

1. I am unsure to this day how Pat became infected but can only take a guess that as she had a tooth extracted at the UHW in Cardiff I believe around the 1986 time it may have been then. She was given Factor 8 as what the medical team loosely called "a backup" to stop the bleeding. They also made a plastic plate that went over the extraction point to stop the bleeding. I believe that the procedure was carried out in the main hospital building not the dental school and was carried out under general anaesthetic.
2. A number of years prior to that I can recall that Pat had tooth extracted in the local dentist early on in our relationship. As it wouldn't stop bleeding Dr Morgan came to her house at number GRO-C and stitched the wound up to stop it bleeding. Despite Dr Morgan's treatment it still wouldn't stop bleeding so that night I went with her to the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff (CRI) but I cannot remember what treatment she had to stop the bleeding, but whatever they did appeared to work.
3. I believe that it was around the 1993 time when Dr Desani at the Haemophilia clinic at the UHW told Pat that she had contracted Hepatitis Non A and B.

3. Other infections

1. I am ~~not~~ aware that my wife had any other infections other than Hepatitis C.

4. Consent

1. I do not have any knowledge as to whether my wife was treated or tested without her knowledge, consent or without being given adequate or full information or for research.

5. **Impact**

1. My family as a unit were damaged by my wife's illness and we are still impacted by it now.
2. I knew my wife Pat, from a very early age as we grew up in the same street, [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] I was three years older than Pat.
3. Growing up I didn't know that she had any type of health problems and treated her as a normal friend growing up. I knew that Pat's mother and uncle were "bleeders" but didn't make any connection to Pat. It didn't stop her enjoying a normal childhood. Pat was an only child.
4. We went to the same school and despite the three year age gap we regularly played and saw each other as during that time there was not much else to do other than play in the street with all the other kids.
5. We started to see each other as boyfriend and girlfriend when I was 17 and Pat would have been 14.
6. I left school at 15 and went to work in the Deep Duffryn mine in Mountain Ash as a haulier. When Pat left school she worked in a shoe shop in Penrhiwceiber but wanted more money so shortly after took a job with AB Metals in Abercynon.
7. We married in 1968 and moved into a flat [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] and were only there for approximately a year before me moved to [GRO-C] in 1969. At that time I changed jobs and became an indentured apprentice Carpenter in 1968.

8. Pat then became pregnant with Jason who was born in 1969. During the pregnancy Pat spent a short time in the East Glamorgan Hospital in Church Village, Rhondda Cynon Taff just for observations due to hypertension.
9. Jason was born on the [GRO-C] 1969 at the Glossop Terrace Hospital in Cardiff which was directly opposite the main entrance to the CRI. Jason was born by caesarean section. I believe that they took blood from the back of Jason's hand but we didn't know why or what were the results of any tests if they took any.
10. Pat's health didn't change during the next few years and she then became pregnant with our second son Christopher some 8 years later. However, there was one instance where Pat started to vomit blood so I took her to hospital where she stayed for a few days. I don't know what she was treated for. This was when we lived in [GRO-C] around 1970-71. I telephoned Professor Bloom who said to bring her down to the UHW.
11. We then moved to our home at [GRO-C] in 1973-74.
12. She was then under the care of Professor Arthur Bloom of the Haemophilia unit which was based at the UHW Cardiff at the time.
13. Pat spent approximately 5 months as an inpatient at the UHW in Cardiff due to complications with her pregnancy, I believe the baby was in the wrong position and both mother and baby had to be carefully monitored. Christopher was born at the UHW in Cardiff by Caesarean section on [GRO-C] 1977.
14. When Chris was a baby, around 6 months old, Pat had a hysterectomy at the age of 28-29 as she was losing more than normal amount of blood on each monthly period, the Doctor gave her Cryoprecipitate for the hysterectomy operation.

15. Although I can't be specific it was a few years later that Pat felt unwell, nothing specific but run down and lethargic and just generally not right. After visiting our local General Practitioner (GP), I paid privately for her to see a specialist, Dr Peter Beck, at Llandough Hospital, Cardiff. She had a number of blood tests. When she went back for the results I stayed in the waiting room and a short time later Pat came out of the consultation room crying. She told me that he had accused her of being an alcoholic.
16. Apart from being shocked that he had made this accusation she became depressed so went back to her GP who then prescribed an anti-depressant Ativan. Pat also went to see a Psychiatrist in Cardiff.
17. She didn't like being on this drug so after two years decided that she wanted to come off it. The GP told her not to stop taking them as it could cause fits. However, for her own piece of mind she decided to gradually reduce the dose herself and at first cut the Ativan in half then into four, and in her words "just like a druggie", before coming off them completely.
18. In 1989 I had an accident at work where I sustained a nasty injury to my arm. I then decided that I would give up work to spend time with Pat. We regularly went to Spain on holidays sometimes 5 times a year.
19. Friends that we had, deserted us years ago when they found out about the Hepatitis C making excuses not to join us on days out, calling round or generally socialising. I didn't really blame them really as they thought that they themselves or their children could catch it.
20. After being free of the Ativan she attended Rhydyfelin College in Pontypridd gaining a City and Guilds Certificate in English. Pat also passed as a Red Cross nurse and qualified in bereavement counselling at Merthyr. She also helped to set up the New Horizons Mental health Charity in Aberdare and was a volunteer helping others with depression. She was given an award by social services for the

voluntary work she had done and was there for many years until she became too ill to attend through the Hepatitis C symptoms. There was no other medication or treatment at this time.

21. From the late 1990's Pat joined the South Wales Haemophilia Group which were campaigning for a safe recombinant (synthetic without blood product treatment). When the Welsh Assembly was established in 1999 she was part of a group that formed Haemophilia Wales which was a separate charity where all the money could be kept in Wales. Pat was at the Cross Party Group reception at the Welsh Assembly. She also campaigned vigorously as Cardiff patients could get access to Hepatitis C treatment whereas other parts of Wales including our own where funding was not available. She also went to London campaigning for justice.

22. I can recall that we took all the vials of Interferon and Ribavirin back to the clinic at UHW at the request of Dr Desani. Pat was still attending the hospital for liver function tests and had a number of other tests including scans where it was found that she had developed cirrhosis of liver.

23. On holiday in Spain sitting next to a couple in a café we were asked by them if we had just met. Pat smiled and told them that we have been married over forty years. Another time on the flight back a woman who sat next to us asked if we had been on honeymoon. People must have noticed how happy we were together.

24. Early in 2012 we were looking for a small bungalow and went to Nelson, a small village approximately 4 miles away several times, to look at anything which was suitable. We didn't want to go out of the area. Each occasion Pat came home from hospital we went looking for a suitable place but always wanted a bungalow, as the stairs in the house where we live became a problem for Pat.

25. The last memory I have being with my wife holding her hand when she was close to death is me telling a young nurse at the bedside with me, " I remember the first time that I held her hand when she was 14, and this is the last time" The tears rolled down the nurses cheeks as she got up and walked away I felt so bad as I didn't mean to upset her and I never saw her again to apologise.
26. Pat's funeral was held on the 4th February 2014 and her ashes were interred on the 5th February 2014 at 10 o'clock at Abercynon Cemetery.
27. Several weeks later after the Council sent a plot deed and I found out the plot number that Pat was buried was 666. I had to contact the Home Office through the funeral directors and took proceedings to have her moved as Pat was religious she was confirmed as a Sunday School teacher when younger and I know she wouldn't want to be in that plot.
28. Pat's ashes were exhumed on Friday 9th May 14. I chose plot GRO-C to have them reburied there after meeting the Cynon Valley Sexton Kerry same day and signed over 666 plot deed back to the Council at funeral directors home on Sunday 11th May 2014.
29. Pat's remains were reburied at Abercynon Cemetery Plot GRO-C at 2pm on the 19th May 2014. I had to pay again for the service but this was my choice to have my wife's ashes moved.
30. The UHW rang me on 3rd April 2014 offering to meet me to discuss the issue and complaint about Pat's treatment by Brendon Healey a Consultant Virologist at the UHW. I told them I wanted an explanation in writing about the way in which Mr. Healey had administered the drugs to my wife. I spoke to Roz Meah from the Concerns Team at Cardiff and Vale UHB Complaints but I could not get her to understand that it was not the nursing staff that I was complaining about but Mr. Brendon Healey's incorrect administration of the drugs to my wife.

31. Now at 73 years old and on my own I find it very lonely, especially sitting at the table on my own at meal times. My sons rarely visit since their mother has died the warmth of a home goes with a mother there's no perfume or cooking smells which makes a home. I only go out if necessary, I just sit here waiting to die.
32. I wish my wife could have been here to see the outcome of an Inquiry but it's all too late for her and all the other contaminated blood victims.
33. The loss of my wife outweighs any sense of justice or compensation; she was not only my wife but also my best friend the only time we were apart was when she was in hospital.
34. Her death has affected all the family. She has also missed the recent birth of three great granddaughters.
35. It was the contaminated blood that took away my loved one and the happy and healthy life that we could have had together. No-one told me that she had Von Willebrands, I always knew she had the condition.
36. I have put in place and paid for my own funeral arrangements without telling any of my family. I do not want a service, and no one there. The undertaker will intern my ashes next to Pat's.

6. Treatment/Care Support

1. Pat was devastated by the news given to her by Dr Desani at the Haemophilia clinic where she told that she had contracted Hepatitis Non A and B as it came out of the blue and was a complete shock. She knew that she had a mild form of Haemophilia called Von Willebrands, which didn't pose any problems both physically or mentally to her. She then started to take Interferon and Riberfiron. I tried to reassure her that we could manage the Hepatitis as my nephew had contracted Hepatitis B whilst serving in the Army, having caught it through

stagnant water infection whilst abroad. I reassured her that he coped with it and it didn't affect his daily life.

2. It was a gradual erosion process of a combination of the effects of being diagnosed with Hepatitis C that understandingly led her to become depressed whilst on Interferon and Ribavirin.
3. In 2013 Pat was sent to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham to see a liver specialist Mr Holt. His treatment plan was for Pat to have a combination of three drugs, Ribavirin, Interferon and Telaprevir. They needed to clear the liver of the virus before Pat was placed on the liver transplant waiting list. I can clearly recall Dr Holt stating that the three drugs were to be given independent of each other. One course of the first drug before progressing to the second drug and then finally the third to see how she coped. Mr. Brendon Healy the Consultant Virologist at the UHW eventually administered the drugs, but instead of administering one batch at a time, he gave them all together in about September or November 2013 which I believe hastened her death. When I confronted Mr. Healy about the administration that Mr. Holt had recommended, he apologised at Pat's bedside on A7 Ward saying he was "sorry".
4. When we arrived back in South Wales there was delay due to the Health Board refusing to fund the three drugs. This added considerably to our anxiety as we were told that these drugs hopefully would rid Pat of Hepatitis C before the transplant and each day was a living nightmare waiting to see if we could get these drugs. Pat was in and out of hospital many times between 2012-2013 for treatment and tests and her condition was deteriorating quite rapidly.
5. Unfortunately, Pat had GenoType 1 which is the worst. The Cardiff Health Authority refused to pay for the drugs to treat Pat's Hepatitis C. As we lived out of the area and although it was them that infected her she had to apply to her own Health Board Cwm Taf Health Board

which took months before they agreed. This wasted time was precious to her as GenoType 1 has a greater chance of developing cirrhosis than other genotypes.

6. Mr Brendon Healey a Consultant Virologist at the UHW in Cardiff eventually administered the drugs, instead of administering one batch at a time he gave them altogether, ie Ribarvirin, Telepavia and Interferon, I believe this was around the September – November time in 2013.
7. Another we time were at Dr Godkin's clinic at the UHW in around the December 2013 which was running late. Dr Godkin gave my wife a prescription and as he did so he looked at the clock and said the pharmacy will be closed (it closes at 5pm) now but you can take it to your own GP. This I did on the way home at the Abercynon Health Centre. The following day I went to collect and was told that they wouldn't prescribe it as it was too expensive.
8. My wife telephoned Dr Godkin and said for me to go down and there will be a script left at the pharmacy for her. I did this and there was three months' supply in a carrier bag which I brought home. But Pat did not live long enough to use them. This course of treatment continued until just before her death. I confronted Mr Healey after Pat died and he apologised saying he was sorry. Up until the very end Pat always believed the drugs would get rid of the Hepatitis and the liver transplant would be successful.

7. Financial Assistance

1. We received a payment of £45,000, paid in two stages from the Caxton fund but I cannot recall the dates.

8. Other Issues

1. My biggest issue is how long this has gone on for, and still is going on. As a family we deserve answers for what has happened to her and deserve justice for what she was put through.
2. One of the hardest parts is how long it took for Pat to be diagnosed. I definitely think she should have been told sooner it is disgusting how long she had to wait.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed... GRO-C

Dated... 28TH March 2019