

Witness Name: A Quinn
Statement No: WITN1482001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANDREW QUINN

I, Andrew Quinn, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Andrew Quinn of GRO-C Shropshire,
GRO-C My date of birth is GRO-C 1962.
2. This statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my medical records.

Section 2. How Infected

3. I have Severe Haemophilia A and I attended Treloars when I was aged 11. The first time I ever received Factor VIII was at Treloars in 1973/1974.
4. I was a very active boy; I rode motorbikes and played football and therefore had a number of bleeds. I was one of six boys at Treloars who were selected to receive Factor VIII, prophylactically, for a year. This meant that we were treated every other day even if we did

not have a bleed. In fact, probably because I was treated every other day I never experienced a single bleed during that year.

5. My consultants at Treloars were Dr Rainsford and Dr Aronstam.
6. I was infected with HIV, Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B as a result of receiving contaminated Factor VIII.
7. I was never advised that there were any risks attached to receiving Factor VIII. This was sold to me as a new treatment, which I could have as a *"home treatment"* and which would change my life; it did but not in the way in which the medical profession had envisaged.
8. Prior to receiving Factor VIII I had experienced a number of bad side effects from my use of cryoprecipitate. Therefore the advent of Factor VIII was supposed to herald the best way forward and patients and consultants were buoyant. This was a *"new beginning"*.

HIV

9. I was told in 1984 by Dr Watson at Wrexham Maelor Hospital that I was infected with HIV. However, although I had not officially been told by a medical professional prior to this date, I already strongly suspected that I was infected for a number of reasons. My good friend at Treloars had already died and he was one of the original six who had been selected for the prophylactic treatment programme. I was aged 22 when my good friend passed away. I think I tried to deny the fact that deep down *"I knew that I was also infected with what had killed him"*.
10. Furthermore, prior to my meeting with Dr Watson he had been trying to persuade me to have a test for HIV but I resisted. At the aforementioned meeting with Dr Watson he sat me down and delivered the life changing news in both a professional and sympathetic way. He said *"I have got your blood test results and I am sorry to tell you that you are infected with HIV"*. He then moved on to advising that I must now practice safe sex due to the risk of transmission of HIV. I vividly remember Dr Watson saying to me that if I wanted to do anything then I must get on and do it now. He was very upfront about the fact that my life expectancy was going to be 2-5 years. This was almost impossible to take on board as a 22 year old who just wanted to go out and have fun with his mates.

11. My view is that although I was not given sufficient information to allow me to understand and manage my HIV infection; this was not in any way the fault of Dr Watson. The knowledge regarding HIV at the time was limited; this included the medical professionals themselves and I do not want to criticise Dr Watson in any way.

Hepatitis B

12. I cannot remember how or when I was told about my Hepatitis B infection. Although it sounds silly, it seemed like a fairly insignificant thing at the time but I think this was partly down to the way in which the medical professionals conveyed the news to me; they made out that it was nothing to worry about so at the time it paled into insignificance.

Hepatitis C

13. I was told that I had been infected with Hepatitis C in the 1990s by Professor Toh at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary (as it was known then). Professor Toh sat me down and explained, in great detail, the significance of my Hepatitis C infection. I have a lot of time for this professor; he was very upfront with me in relation to the fact that there was no known cure for Hepatitis C at that time. He gave me detailed advice about how I must stay healthy in terms of eating well and drinking no alcohol. He said I needed to give myself the best chance of dealing with this virus. He said that all he could do was monitor me and he fully informed me about the risks of transmission.

Section 3. Other Infections

14. I received a number of letters advising me that I had been put at risk of vCJD. Professor Toh also advised me, in person, that this was the case.

Section 4. Consent

15. I don't think that I was tested for HIV prior to 1984. If the medical professionals had been testing me then it was definitely done surreptitiously.
16. It is possible that I was tested for Hepatitis C without my knowledge and therefore impliedly without my consent.

17. I had numerous appointments where blood was taken and I was aware that this was to check my CD4 count and Factor VIII levels. However, the medical professionals usually took 5 or 6 different vials so testing for something without my knowledge would not have been an impossibility.

Section 5. Impact

18. I was so ashamed at the fact that I was infected so I planned to take my own life. However, I only planned to go through with this if my health plummeted. I purchased a hose and kept this in the back of my car whilst at the same time stockpiling pain medication. This occurred in or around 1984/1985. I even scouted out places where I could take my own life; I was mad about motorbikes so would go out searching suitable locations where I could carry out my plan. I was just stuck in my thoughts and I could see the writing on the wall and I knew that my future was not bright.

19. Despite this overarching plan, I did meet a lovely girl who I married when I was aged 26. She was fully aware of my HIV status and she wanted children but then the Hepatitis C bombshell presented and that dream died. This relationship did not stand the test of time and this was because I was always so incredibly angry. I was working in a factory at the time and was then promoted to the Health and Safety Manager and I was stressed enough without having to deal with the added burden of my infections. She decided that she no longer wanted to be with me and this was a very difficult time and we eventually parted company.

20. Following the breakdown of this relationship I became very low. I was adamant that no one in their right mind would want to become involved with someone who was suffering from all of these infections. I suffered numerous bouts of depression and had some very dark days following the breakdown of this relationship.

21. In the mid 1990s I became very poorly and lost a lot of weight. My CD4 count plummeted and my appearance started to change. I kept thinking that people would notice this and would put two and two together and then I would then be "outed" in relation to my infections.

22. At this point the triple therapy was being suitably developed and I commenced treatment on this and despite the high hopes, I was completely floored by the horrific side effects of the same. I remember going to work and sitting in laybys throwing up and trying to hide it from my colleagues. I was already on circa 25 tablets per day and it was an impossible situation to be placed in; all I ever wanted to do was to hold my job down and be reasonably healthy. Every single day was a complete struggle.
23. As time went by, I met another girl and she was a great girl and we ended up getting married. I have now been with her for about 20 years. We had a lot in common and she did not want children but she made me want to carry on with life; she gave me a future.
24. She was also the reason why I continued to go to work everyday. I was always very conscious of the fact that we had a mortgage and that if I passed away whilst working she would receive a large payment and a good pension and be looked after for the rest of her life. I just wanted to ensure that she would be properly looked after in the future, as I couldn't obtain any form of life insurance.
25. In or around 2008 the Hepatitis C reared its ugly head to the point where I was not able to continue in my senior Health and Safety job. My memory and concentration had been shattered as a result of the Hepatitis C. I used to have to deal with some very complicated accident reconstruction reports and my boss used to telephone me following my submission of the reports and say "*Are you sure you are talking about the right accident?*". It was a very upsetting time because up until then I had always done a stellar job. The viruses had directly led to me not being able to perform my job to the requisite high standard that was required; a standard that pre-infection I had had no difficulty in meeting or even exceeding.
26. Following this I had no choice but to disclose to my boss that I was suffering from both HIV and Hepatitis C. My boss and the company were extremely supportive and allowed me to take a very generous voluntary redundancy package. I had completed 25 years of service at the age of 46 in 2008.
27. In relation to the treatments for Hepatitis C I confirm that I have been pressured by the Liverpool Hospital to take up the various offers of Interferon treatment. However, I refused because I had seen, first hand, the side effects of this treatment on my good friends who happened to be visiting the Liverpool Hospital at the same time as me.

28. I also went on some forums, I believe via the Macfarlane Trust, and listened to some of the men sharing their story who had embarked upon the treatment and I learned that their horrific symptoms had continued long after the treatment had concluded. Indeed some had never been able to clear the virus and reported to being in a worse condition, health wise, having undertaken the "*unsuccessful*" treatment.
29. However, in 2015 a new treatment emerged on the market; one which had a very high success rate and only involved taking one tablet per day. I embarked upon the course of Harvoni in December 2015 and successfully cleared the virus in April 2016. I was completely relieved that I had finally kicked it.
30. I have really struggled mentally as a result of my infections. For a period of 20 years I remained completely silent about my infections, only telling my two partners. After this time, I felt able to share the news with my sister and she was angry that I had not confided in her earlier. She really wanted to help me through the very difficult times. She questioned me as to why I had not told her and I questioned her as to why she had not guessed. Her reasoning was that she thought that I had lost a lot of weight and looked poorly due to the number of bleeds I had endured and through the fact of me not eating properly.
31. Over the last few years I have managed to tell some close friends about my infections. One of my close friends literally collapsed crying and could not understand why I had not felt able to confide in him earlier. It ended up with me, the infected person, consoling him.
32. I always struggled to get any type of insurance due to my infections. Additionally my pension company wanted to know if anyone in my company had ever had a blood test and I was extremely worried at this point. However, thankfully, my union got involved and postulated the view that it was discriminatory to ascertain if employees had had blood tests. This view was taken on board and I managed to "*dodge*" this.
33. I managed to escape any real stigma because in the main, I did not divulge the fact that I was infected with these various viruses. I resided in an rural area and I kept myself to myself.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

34. As far as I can recall I have not suffered any obstacles or barriers in relation to receiving medical or dental services.

35. I was not offered any counselling or psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

36. I first found out about the Macfarlane Trust (MFT) via the Haemophilic Society. I received a first payment in the region of £30,000 because I was married without children. I recall signing a disclaimer in relation to this payment.

37. Following receipt of this payment, I then started to receive a monthly allowance which was relatively low and in the region of £80 per month. However, this did later increase although I am unsure of the exact figures.

38. I received a number of grants from the MFT which included the cost of relocating to a bungalow when I was unable to manage the stairs in my previous property. I have also received grants to purchase a new washing machine and other items.

39. I have found the application procedure relatively straightforward and I have been satisfied with the support from the MFT.

40. I recall that I was impressed with the MFT when Martin Harvey stood at the helm. However, once GRO-D took charge, things took a turn for the worse. The whole demeanour of the place changed and the trust was not fit for purpose at this time.

41. I heard about the Skipton Fund via the MFT. I received the Stage 1 payment of £20,000 and also the Stage 2 payment of £50,000 following news that I was suffering from cirrhosis. I then received the maximum monthly payment from them, although the exact figure escapes me.

42. I now receive about £3,200 per month from the WIBSS, which is the Welsh equivalent to the EIBSS. I did not have to disclose anything to them and they basically transferred my figures from the MFT to the WIBSS with little involvement from me. The figure incorporates the winter fuel allowance.

Section 8. Other Issues/Conclusion

43. I wrote a number of letters to my MP in Shropshire in order to push for this long overdue Inquiry. My MP's response was basically a complete waste of time.

44. I would like the chronology of what actually happened to be established once and for all. I want to know when the first infected bottles of Factor VIII came to the UK; who supplied them and why the UK purchased them.

45. The blame game is over and decisions made now are not going to dictate whether people go to prison or not. Further prison sentences are not going to change the facts of what happened.

46. I want sufferers to be adequately compensated for what they have had to go through.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

47. I do not wish to apply for anonymity and 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.....18/03/2019.....