

Witness Name: Mr E O Savill

Statement No: WITN1507001

Dated: 19th February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ERIC OWEN SAVILL

I, Eric Owen Savill will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My full name is Eric Owen Savill. I was born on GRO-C 1962 and live at GRO-C
GRO-C with my wife and two children. I currently work as a Web Developer and IT Support provider.
2. I make this statement without the benefit of full access to my medical records.

Section 2. How Infected

3. I am a Haemophilic Type B classed as severe. I was diagnosed when I was about 1 year old as I bruised very easily and my GP (who was aware of Haemophilia) sent me to Great Ormond Street Hospital in London to be tested, diagnosed and treated for Haemophilia.
4. I was initially treated at Great Ormond Street Hospital with Blood Plasma from the age of 1 until the age of 10. I was then transferred to Treloar's School/College, Alton Hampshire and was under their care from the age of 11 to 16 during which time I was treated with Factor IX Concentrate products,

Alpha 9, Cutter, and Mona- 9 Bayer. After leaving Treloar's College, I was then treated at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. However, the Factor IX Concentrate was still provided for me from Treloar's College up to the age of about 28, as the Haemophilia Centre in Addenbrookes Hospital was not as advanced as Treloar's Haemophilia Centre.

5. Neither my parents nor I were given any information regarding the risks of being exposed to infection from the use of blood products.
6. I was told at the Treloar's Haemophilia Centre in 1977 that I had been infected with Hepatitis B as a result of being given contaminated blood products from the United States of America. The Hepatitis B infection naturally cleared from my system over 20 years.
7. I was then told in 1988 by Dr Maneer Wassef at the Treloar's Haemophilia Centre that I was infected with Hepatitis C. Dr Wassef informed me that Treloar's Haemophilia Centre had detected I was infected with Hepatitis C in the early 1980's.
8. The advice I was given by Dr Wassef was that I should continue my Factor IX treatment as usual and that the Hepatitis C infection would kill me but he was not sure when this would happen. I believe the information I was given regarding the Hepatitis C infection was inadequate and I should have been informed that I was infected with Hepatitis C when Treloar's Haemophilia Centre first became aware in the early 1980's.
9. Dr Wassef gave me the impression that the risk of someone else being infected with Hepatitis C as a result of coming into contact with me was low. The information given to me regarding the risk of infecting others and managing the infection was highly inadequate and incorrect.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. I believe I am at risk of being infected with vCJD as a result of being given infected blood products as I have received three letters from the NHS stating that there is this possibility. I also suffer from memory loss and mental

fog, which are symptoms of vCJD which increased my anxiety. I have been tested for Alzheimer's however the results were negative.

Section 4. Consent

11. I believe I was tested without my knowledge and without my consent. I also believe I was being tested for the purposes of research without my consent.

Section 5. Impact

12. The physical effects of being infected with Hepatitis C are that I am constantly tired and fall asleep whilst I am at work. Being infected with Hepatitis C also affected me mentally as I suffered from depression.

13. A further effect of the Hepatitis C was the severe migraines which I experienced in the early 1990's. The migraines were unbelievably painful; I would have to lock myself in a dark room until the migraine had passed. I also started exhibiting extremely high temperatures which would last a whole day. I have also experienced dental problems, where my teeth would easily chip and crack, which has been linked to the Interferon treatment used to clear Hepatitis C. I have also developed Liver Fibrosis as a result of being given contaminated blood products.

14. In January 2010 Addenbrooks Hospital offered me a course of Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin to treat my Hepatitis C infection. I was informed that the course of treatment would last 6 months and that I would exhibit flu-like symptoms as a side effect of this treatment. I was also advised to ask my GP to prescribe me a course of anti-depressants as depression was a further side effect of this treatment. I completed this course of treatment in August 2010 and my tests showed that the Hepatitis C had been cleared.

15. I experienced difficulty in obtaining treatment for my Hepatitis C infection, as Addenbrookes Hospital refused to acknowledge the symptoms I presented them with. I was told by Dr. GRO-D the symptoms were psychosomatic. The denial of my symptoms continued for several years, therefore the

treatment which was available at the time for Hepatitis C was withheld from me as a result of Addenbrookes Hospital failing to take my symptoms seriously. Dr **GRO-D** later apologised for failing to diagnose me, and to take my symptoms seriously and for not treating me sooner.

16. I experienced several side effects as a result of being treated with the Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin treatment for my Hepatitis C infection including itchy skin, rashes, and fatigue. The mental effects of the treatment were more severe, I would have very angry outbursts, severe mood swings and severe memory loss problems. After six weeks of the treatment Dr **GRO-D** asked me if I wanted to stop the treatment but I refused. I remained on the treatment for 8 months, until i managed to clear the Hepatitis C infection.
17. Being infected with Hepatitis C has had a very big impact on my social life. I would always have to cancel plans with friends and family as I was always very tired. In addition, many of my friends were from Treloars College and most of them have died through contaminated blood.. My surviving friends who have HIV tend to isolate themselves. The majority of my social life growing up consisted of attending funerals. As a result of having had Hepatitis C, I suffer from survivor's guilt which has had a devastating mental impact on me.
18. The effect of having Hepatitis C on my family has been considerable my children have suffered as I am very irritable. I am always tired and have not been able to have as much involvement with them as I would have liked and I feel as though my children have missed out on having me available to play with them. My mother died when I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C so she never experienced the effects the Hepatitis C infection had on me. My father and I were estranged for several years and I have never asked him how my Hepatitis C infection affected him. In the past I have suffered stigma however my family have not suffered with this issue.

19. The impact that having Hepatitis C had on my education was life-changing, as I was unable able to attend university as a result of the fatigue and lack of concentration. I finished technical college with E grade A-Levels which hindered me from being accepted by any University. As a consequence I undertook an IT apprenticeship when I was 18 years old. I was then offered a Senior Software Engineer position at British Aerospace with a promise of leading a team of Engineers. However, I lost my job after six months because I was failing asleep at my desk; I could not fulfil my obligations. I then started working at a local company as IT support; however as I had to state on my CV that I had lost my leadership position, my career never recovered. I also had to step back from a Java Software Engineering position after 5 years with the company because of the memory loss issues I was experiencing and the mental fog. Colleagues who worked with me in past told me that I was overlooked for promotions as I was viewed as flaky and unreliable as a result of my fatigue. Consequently, I have suffered great financial loss.

20. I put my failed career down to my Hepatitis C, as the people I started working with at British Aerospace and who I was an intellectual equal to are now directors and earn salaries in excess of £150,000 per annum; whilst I ended up earning the minimum wage after a period of unemployment caused by the symptoms of Hepatitis C.

21. I currently work in a much more junior role for a different company but I am not sure how much longer I'll be able to keep even this up.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

22. I have not faced difficulty in obtaining treatment, care or support as a consequence of being infected with Hepatitis C except as set out at paragraph 15 above.

23. I have never been offered counselling or psychological support as a result of being infected with Hepatitis C. However, my GP did offer me counselling for my depression which I accepted.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

24. I have received the Stage 1 Hepatitis C payment of £10,000 from the Skipton Fund.

25. In 2017 I was advised by Addenbrookes Hospital to apply for the monthly support payments from the EIBSS. I was accepted and have been receiving a payment of £1,500 per calendar month.

26. I did not find the process of applying for financial assistance difficult. .

27. The only pre-condition I faced in applying for financial assistance was that I was required to have developed Liver Cirrhosis in order to receive the Stage 1 payment for the Hepatitis C infection.

28. My initial observations on the various Trusts and Funds is that, it is not entirely clear which body manages which infection, which made the process of applying for the payments that I am entitled to very difficult.

Section 8. Other Issues

29. I am ashamed to live in the United Kingdom as a result of the Government's behaviour. In Parliament the contaminated blood issue is always the last issue on the agenda. The way the Government has conducted themselves over the years is a reflection of their guilt. I find this tragedy very shocking.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

30. I do not wish to apply for anonymity and I would be prepared to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed. GRO-C

Dated. 19/2/19