

Witness Name: SIMON SMITH

Statement No: WITN1530001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: FEBRUARY 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SIMON SMITH

I, Simon Smith, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Simon Smith. I was born on the GRO-C 1966 and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C Cornwall GRO-C.
2. My father, Jeffrey Arthur Smith (born on GRO-C 1937) was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products. He died from liver cancer on 19th April 1917 aged 80.
3. My sisters, Sally and Kay, have given their own Statements to the Inquiry (Witness Numbers WITN1611 and WITN1453001 respectively).
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father had mild Haemophilia A.
6. My father was treated for haemophilia at the Truro Haemophilia Centre, The Royal Cornwall (Treliske) Hospital, under the care of Dr Helena Daley and Dr Creagh. He later received cancer treatment at the Derriford Hospital in Plymouth.
7. My father was told that he had been infected with hepatitis. He was infected when he was given a "clotting agent - Factor VIII". The Infection occurred in the 1980s. It was believed that the contaminated blood was received during a circumcision in approximately 1986 or 1987.
8. No information was provided to me directly. I was told by my father that he had Hepatitis C or Hepatitis B and that he might also have HIV. Further testing was needed. He was ultimately told that he had Hepatitis C (HCV).

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I do not believe that Dad received any other infection other than HCV although he endured laborious HIV testing from 1985 until 1991.

Section 4. Consent

10. I cannot comment on these issues.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. My father underwent many drug trials over the years which often made him feel very unwell and which were unsuccessful in curing the HCV.

12. Over the years the HCV developed into Liver Cancer and my father endured several rounds of TACE treatments to try and prevent the cancer he had on his liver from developing. There were frequent visits to the hospital for treatment.

13. My father isolated himself from others and worried about possible blood related cross infection. The HCV developed into unstoppable and fatal liver cancer with unstoppable bleeds, resulting in him bleeding to death. My father was rushed to hospital when a tumour in his liver burst. He could not be saved.

14. The impact on me of my father being infected with HCV is a massive one. It has been difficult for me on a personal mental and emotional point of view to engage in this process of providing a Statement to the Inquiry. The only way that I have been able to deal with my father's death is to not talk about my loss.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. I do not know and cannot comment on whether my father faced difficulties in obtaining treatment, care and support.

16. Counselling or psychological support has never been offered to myself.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

17. Financial Assistance was received by my father, I do not have any further information regarding this matter

Section 8. Other Issues

18. There are no other issues.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

19. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this Statement will be published and disclosed to the Inquiry. I do not wish to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..

GRO-C

Dated

27/02/2019.