

Witness Name: Lee Terence Stay

Statement No: WITN1541014

Exhibits: WITN1541015

Dated: JUNE 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

THIRD WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LEE TERENCE STAY

I, Lee Terence Stay will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Lee Terence Stay. My date of birth is GRO-C 1968 and I live at GRO-C
2. This is my Third Statement. It should be read in conjunction with my First Statement given to the Inquiry (Witness Number WITN1541001) and my Second Statement given to the Inquiry (Witness Number WITN1541013).

Section 2. How infected

3. I had severe Haemophilia A. I am co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products.

Section 3. Other Infections

4. I refer to my First Statement.

Section 4. Consent

5. I refer to my First Statement.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

6. I refer to my First Statement.
7. I was referred to King's College Hospital in London in May 2005. My liver had become severely compromised from the effects of HCV to the extent that my only option was a liver transplant. I was placed on the transplant list in November 2005 and had the transplant in July 2007. The transplant was a success, and the bonus was that the donor liver was able to produce its own Factor VIII, meaning I was now 'cured' of haemophilia.
8. Up until that point I had lived with haemophilia for over 39 years. The only difference to me now, in practical terms, is that I no longer need Factor VIII concentrate injections. Because of the long term damage to my joints from haemophilia bleeds, I have developed haemarthrophy in both ankles and my right elbow.
9. I was awarded the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) when I was 5 years old. Since in or around 1989 I have used the allowance to lease a car through the Motability scheme. In 2013 the DWP starting the roll out policy of replacing the benefit with the new Personal Independence Payment (PIP) scheme.
10. I was contacted by the DWP in July 2019 notifying me that I was being transferred to PIP. I have since been informed that I am no longer entitled to a mobility car and I am currently expecting the letter of demand for the return

of my car. I am in constant pain with my ankles. There are days when I cannot walk at all. I cannot manage without my car. It is as simple as that.

11. The transfer application process to the new PIP benefit has been a difficult and stressful one and my health has, in fact, worsened since first receiving the DLA higher mobility rate back in 1974. All my health issues: the damage to my joints; the liver transplant; peripheral neuropathy and my past cancers were disclosed by me in the PIP application form. I then had a face to face assessment. The person undertaking my assessment had previously worked as a paramedic and had no detailed knowledge of my complex health issues. Mainly through the results of a test of the power in my legs, I was not awarded enough mobility component points. The main problem I have is my ankles. I finally went through the mandatory reconsideration process with the assistance of a Benefit Advisor working on behalf of EIBSS. It was all to no avail and the only recourse left to me is that of a court tribunal.

12. Applications for PIP made by haemophiliacs with haemarthrophy are considered separately and favourably since the set up of a DWP Working Party Group in October 2017, with the input of Mark Ward, Campaigner. My application should have been treated the same way. I refer to Exhibit WITN1541015 being a letter dated 19th June 2018 outlining the DWP Working Group review process.

13. I feel that I am being penalised for ending up with a liver transplant after being infected with HCV through contaminated blood products. As stated, I have lived with haemophilia and its devastating effects (to include becoming very dangerously ill as a result of being co-infected with HCV and HIV) for over 39 years.

14. As an ironic aside, because of the liver transplant and the immunosuppressant drugs I take, I fall into the high risk shielding group in relation to Covid19. I would be unable to use public transport for that reason regardless of the pain in my ankles in any event.

15. I would ask that the Inquiry look into this matter as a bigger issue when it makes its recommendations regarding benefits/financial support.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

16. I refer to my First Statement.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

17. I refer to my First and Second Statements.

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 as part of the Inquiry.

20. I do wish to be called to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... 

Dated..... 01.07.2020