Witness Name: DANIEL STOCKS
Statement No: WITN0458001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: June 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DANIEL STOCKS

I, Daniel Stocks, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Daniel Stocks of GRO-C GRO-C My date of birth is GRO-C 1974. I am currently unemployed due to poor health and fatigue. I am married and we have four daughters. I also have one son from my previous relationship.

2. I was infected with the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.

3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

4. The first time I attempted to obtain my medical records from Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) in approximately 1995 I was told by my solicitor that there had been a fire at BCH and medical notes were lost or destroyed. I was

surprised. The second time I tried in approximately 1997, I was told the same by a company in Birmingham called Lyons & Clarke.

Section 2. How Infected

5. I suffer from mild Haemophilia A with 5% clotting factor which has been treated with Cryoprecipitate and Factor VIII concentrate (FVIII).

6. I attended BCH where I believe I was infected with HBV in 1985 and HCV sometime between 1987 and 1988 as a result of contaminated blood products. During this time I had undergone a tooth extraction surgery at BCH following which I became jaundiced and spent weeks in hospital.

7. In the summer of 1977 when I was 3 years old, I fell down the stairs and suffered from a head injury. I still have a dent in my forehead to this day. I was brought to the A&E department in BCH. It was at this point that I was diagnosed with Haemophilia A. I stayed in the hospital for a couple of weeks but I remain unsure as to the exact treatment I was given.

8. Following my diagnosis, my three brothers were also tested for Haemophilia. My eldest brother, Mitch, is a mild haemophiliac with 6% clotting factor. My youngest brother, Ben, is a mild haemophiliac with 4% clotting factor and my other brother, Lee, does not have Haemophilia. As a result, our family is familiar with the haematology department.

9. From the age of 3 until around 14, me and my younger brother Ben spent a lot of time at BCH on ward 6. I want the Inquiry to understand that my care at BCH was generally very good but it all turned very dark very quickly.

10. We were young boys who were adventurous, outgoing and naughty! This resulted us in spending time in hospital for sports injuries and fighting.

11. Me and GRO-C had a condition called exostosis which is a hereditary condition which affects our bones. Under X-rays we could see bony growths

on our bones that resembled magic mushrooms. We were told that the growths would have to be surgically removed later on in our adolescence.

12. Over the years I had 3 operations to remove the growths. I also had many ankle bleeds, tooth extractions and correctional surgery. I had cut myself many times, split open my eyebrow twice during ice skating, had been beaten up twice and undergone the usual Factor VIII treatment for these incidents.

13. The most prominent memory is when I had to undergo 3 tooth extractions when I was approximately aged 9. After the surgery I turned yellow and jaundiced. I can only assume that was from my first exposure to either Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C. This meant an extended stay in BCH for further testing. Some weeks later after I had left BCH I was still yellow. They made me sit outside in the sun to clear the jaundice. I recall not wanting to leave, lodging myself onto the iron railings outside because I felt so weak. I felt safer in the hospital.

14. When I was injured I would need Factor VIII for the following two or three days. The doctor would give me a prescription for twelve bottles with syringes; I would take them home and store them in the fridge. The amount of Factor VIII given to me was dependant on my weight as it was too expensive to waste.

15. I was treated with inoculations and boosters in the buttocks and thigh in view of clearing HBV which was successful by the time I was aged 15.

16. When I was aged 14 I remember the doctors at BCH tested me for Non-A Non-B Hepatitis and HIV. I assumed it was routine practice. I was not told anything about the results at that time. I am not sure whether my mother knew about the results.

17. When I turned 16 I was transferred from BCH to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) in Birmingham. In approximately 1990/1991 during my first appointment at the hospital, I gave bloods as normal then sat to wait to meet

Dr Wilde, consultant haematologist, for the first time. During our meeting he told me that I had a virus in my blood and I was told that it was called Non-A Non-B Hepatitis (now HCV) and that they do not know where it came from. I was told it was not treatable and that I might die as a result. I received a letter confirming this diagnosis which I shared with my mother and brothers. It was very distressing and devastating to all of us.

18. A year later, my brother was also diagnosed with HCV. Fortunately, my eldest brother did not contract the virus. This may have been because he did not need treatment for Haemophilia as regularly as me and my younger brother.

19. After this diagnosis, my brother and I arranged an appointment at the QEH. During this appointment we were given no information and their approach was very dismissive.

20. The lack of clarity surrounding HCV went on for years. The doctors frequently used complicated medical terminology. The information they provided in relation to cross-contamination, brushing teeth, sex and blood-on-blood contact changed over time.

21. A leaflet I received merely brushed over the chance of contracting HCV through sexual intercourse. There was no information on how to manage HCV and I was given free condoms. The doctors told me that HCV would kill me or cause liver failure resulting in the need for a liver transplant. As a result of this inadequate information, I had to educate myself on the risks and management of such infections. A year later when I moved to Devon, I attempted again to find out more information. I was given another leaflet, put on a course of anti-depressants and told to go away.

22. Here is a short time line of events which keeps bringing back the infection into my life:

Initial diagnosis	approx. 1992
1st attempt legal claim (fail)	approx. 1995

vCJD scare (status unknown)	approx. 1996
2nd attempt legal claim (failed)	approx. 1997
Legal group litigation USA (took 6 years)	approx. 1999
Interferon course GRO-C	approx.. 2004
Skipton Fund claim	approx. 2005
Skipton Fund claim	approx. 2007
Skipton Fund claim (denied)	approx. 2008
Treatment Sofusbuvir (Devon)	approx. 2016
EIBSS contact	approx. 2017
EIBSS contact	approx. 2019
National Enquiry	approx. 2019

Section 3. Other Infections

23. I suffered with extremely bad psoriasis which is commonly linked to liver conditions.

24. When I was aged around 28 I received a letter stating that I had a 1% chance of being infected with vCJD. Unfortunately I cannot locate this letter.

Section 4. Consent.

25. When I was a child, my mother consented to my treatment related to Haemophilia.

26. As a haemophiliac, I constantly felt like a lab rat. Treatment for HCV is still a massive grey area for me and there was a complete lack of information provided. It seemed as though nobody knew what was happening until the late 1980's.

27. From the age of 11 onwards it was common practice for the doctors to take up to three vials of blood in one test. They did whatever they liked with my blood.

Section 5. Impact

28. My mother and father GRO-C Their relationship diminished over the next few months following our diagnosis of Haemophilia. My dad left and was never to be seen again by me to this day. I can hardly blame him as it was a lot to deal with.

29. My mum met John who bought a 4 bed bungalow in the countryside on the outskirts of GRO-C for us all to live in. My mum would have done anything for us.

30. We were told by the medical professionals to be careful when playing sports and 'sibling fighting'. As we grew up we became boisterous and we would often injure ourselves. I spent around 3 months per year in a hospital bed and I was familiar with all of the staff on ward 6 at BCH. The early treatment for our Haemophilia consisted of bed rest, elevated limbs and IV treatment. As medical capabilities progressed, I eventually was able to self-administer Factor VIII concentrate at home. I particularly remember being given the brand Baxter. It came in vials with light blue and white packaging with a plastic cap. The vials were placed in a machine for half an hour before they were dispensed.

31. I received dental treatment at BCH. In 1985 I had to have three teeth removed to make room for my adult teeth and I was treated with Factor VIII as normal. On this occasion I was treated with Cryoprecipitate which I was allergic to. The staff accidently gave it to me which resulted in me suffering from an anaphylactic shock. My mother came from getting a coffee to seeing me having a fit which nearly killed me.

32. Following this allergic reaction I was admitted to hospital for 3 to 4 weeks. During this time I became jaundiced. When I was discharged I was too weak to go back to school. I remember feeling exhausted and scared to leave the hospital. A few months later I was diagnosed with HBV.

33. From the age of 8, I developed abnormal growths on my legs. Subsequently, both my GRO-C and I were diagnosed with hereditary exostosis. If these growths became particularly debilitating, then we would have to undergo surgery. In one of these surgeries the surgeon had left a piece of bone in my left leg and I lost the use of my foot for around 2 years. I had a velcro boot and I had to use a calliper to lift my foot.

34. I recall as a family we were clearing out an old storage to move a play room or a den. I cut my right leg on some iron which took a deep gouge out of my flesh. I recall my step dad picking me up and throwing me into a cold bath to stop the bleeding. GRO-D he had to drive me to hospital some 12 miles away on his day off. I received Factor VIII and stitches at BCH.

35. Another operation was required to remove the growths from my left knee and my right thigh. I had the surgery following receiving Factor VIII treatment. When I came around from the surgery I had lost the use of my left foot. My toes were also the same. I was told that a fragment of bone was rubbing on the nerve that enabled me to lift my foot and the doctors told me that it might get better in time. In fact, it did not. I left hospital limping like Forrest Gump. I had tests after test on my leg and nerves. Eventually I had to wear a calliper made of metal and it was fixed to a pair of my trainers. It was a huge spring device that lifted my foot and allowed me to walk more normally without having to drag my foot. It was awful. I was aged about 13 and in year 2 of high school going through puberty. I became very introverted and a totally different person. I was nick named "Danny drop foot" at home! I could not walk, I could not run, I could not kick a f****ng ball. My only safe place was on a chair or my bike. I had to attend corrective surgery as the nerve that lifted my foot was about to snap. The fragment of bone was removed over a year later than the original surgery and slowly but surely after 2 years of physiotherapy in hospital and at home I now have 80% usage back. I continue to have trouble on stairs and steps. I recall the consultants name was Mr Thompson who was the orthopaedic registrar.

36. Aged 14 or 15, me and my brother Ben who is around 9 months younger than me underwent a liver biopsy. To this day, I do not know why. Who gives haemophiliac children liver biopsies? It involved a large thread of your liver approximately 2mm thick and 8cm long being coned from your liver by means of a huge hollow needle approximately 15cm by 3mm being driven between your ribs into your liver.

37. This thread of your organ then being dissected into different sections before your very own eyes and shared out into different vials for lab testing. Prior to the procedure we had to have Factor VIII treatment then factor level testing followed by more Factor VIII treatment followed by more factor level testing. This was followed by having to spend 24 hours on our backs to prevent bleeding from the liver.

38. To this day I do not understand why this took place and we were never given the results of the biopsy.

39. Every time a haemophiliac received blood products at BCH on ward 6; parents and carers would have to sign a huge leather bound book prior to receiving treatment. Our Haemophilia nurse, Sister Marion, would have to enter the following: patient's name, date, reason for transfusion, quantity prescribed, weight of patient, age, batch number of product and a signature of a parent or carer and administrator. This was the protocol for the ward. What happened to those years of documents which could now act as critical evidence?

40. During physical education at school we were unable to join in and were told to do other activities. Throughout our childhood we were wrapped in cotton wool for fear of bleeds.

41. I was infected with HCV when I was 11 years old. It had profound physical and psychological effects on my body. Every time I had to stay in the hospital for a few weeks I had to take time off school and it left me feeling very weak and scared.

42. Following my diagnosis of HCV I left the hospital in distress. I was provided with no advice and no information. I told no one. Approximately 9 months later my younger brother received the exact same treatment. I have gone with him to the appointment and my brother was furious, thrown the desk over to the ground and had thrown his phone on the floor, he was livid. My brother was in tears GRO-C

43. It is fairly difficult to quantify the impact which HCV had on me because I do not know the person I could have become had I not have been infected with the virus. I had to constantly be aware of the threat of cross contamination to protect others and I have always protected others.

44. For years I went into denial aged 18 to 28. At 18 years old I broke out head to toe with psoriasis which I suffer from to this day.

45. Me and my brother turned GRO-C Ben became very angry and self destructive. Ben attempted to take his own life on holiday. He often disappeared and found in tears miles away. He was often very very angry. We were very distressed. It broke our family. Me and Ben became different, distant from our mum and step dad. GRO-D GRO-D We were growing up as not very nice teenagers. Eventually after months of fighting and stress, my mum left my step dad as he had given her an ultimatum: him or us. We entered adulthood very quickly and we had to get jobs, pay rent and moved from the rural family home into rented accommodation in town. GRO-C

46. Ben became heavily GRO-C. His relationship with our mum was tested strongly. He eventually later tested negative for Non A Non B Hepatitis as he cleared the virus naturally. He continues with his life, thank God. I am not so lucky.

47. I remember having a conversation with my mother about Hepatitis and HIV. I recall a friend of mine from ward 6, a severe haemophiliac who contracted

HIV. He was on the news having a ride in a helicopter as his 'last wish' before he died. He died at the age of only 11.

48. It has always been very painful to tell people about my infection. I have had to move around a lot to protect myself. In the past 30 years I have lived at over 30 different addresses in 7 different counties.

49. It has been 2 years since I was cleared of my HCV, but I have had 30 years of it hanging over me. I am still learning how to live with the infection. Although I have had a somewhat easier time compared to others who were also infected, it has still not been easy.

50. I would continually ask questions and never find out the answers. I did not even know if I could have children. I was unsure about my life expectancy; every day could have been my last. It was so unbelievably draining. I suffer from depression as a result and take anti-depressants.

51. I understand that my story may not be as horrible as others, but from the time I was 18 until I was 30 it felt like a really tragic time.

52. In 2005, I was at university in GRO-C and the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH) contacted me to offer me some information on treatment for HCV. During the appointment I was told that if I completed a 6 month course of Interferon and Ribavirin then I would have 60% chance of clearing HCV. I underwent this treatment.

53. This treatment involved stomach injections three times per week. It was awful, nasty, as though the clock stopped. During the treatment I felt I was living in someone else's skin. I wasn't feeling my usual self. I was angry, felt dirty, had night swears, felt vacant and I couldn't work or study. The worst thing was having to stand in a line with drug addicts to get my prescription from a drug clinic. I was branded as a drug user.

54. The side effects of the treatment were unbearable. I experienced nausea, cramps, fatigue, loss of appetite and weight loss. I could not cope so I stopped the treatment.

55. At the beginning of 2016, a medical advisor from Torbay Hospital contacted me to say that they needed to conduct some tests as there was a possibility that there was a new treatment coming from the USA. They would have to determine if I was eligible for it before they could administer it. I would then have to apply to the board to get the treatment.

56. The tests showed that my genotype responded well to the treatment which meant I was eligible for it. I was told that the treatment was very expensive costing $80,000 USD per patient, which meant the NHS was only able to provide it to three people in the South West. I believe that the drug in question was called Sofosbuvir. I had to take the tablets twice a day for three months. To ensure that the drugs were working I had to attend monthly appointments to renew my prescription. I did not experience any side effects. After the treatment the hospital did a fibroscan to test my liver. I now attend annual check ups. I have read that there is still a risk of developing liver cancer.

57. I entered a stage of depression, was prescribed disthaph anti depressants, later moving onto citalopram.

58. I have not even discussed it with all the girls I have slept with as I live in denial. Cross contamination seems to be a grey area. I recall one fearful episode, I cut my finger on a glass, my girlfriend at the time grabbed my finger to suck the blood off, I pushed her hard in the face which was an auto response without thinking to get her away from my blood. It scared the s**t out of me. Even to this day, 2 years after clearing the HCV, I still keep my toothbrush separate from my family.

59. My HCV status has impacted my medical treatment in general as it often raised questions about alcohol consumption and intravenous drug use. The healthcare professionals have always been wary to treat me. They never

really know how to deal with haemophiliacs and they did not want to touch us. I have felt the same stigma around Haemophilia as I have for HCV.

60. My mother's life has been extremely impacted by having 3 haemophiliac sons and 2 sons who were infected with HCV. She did not really know how to deal with it so she handled it GRO-C. My mother went through an awful lot but she brought us all up well.

61. Throughout the years, my brothers and I supported each other. When it came to my social life I always kept everything to myself as much as possible. It was hard to make friends.

62. I had to be very careful when making new relationships with girls. It was a psychological nightmare. I would not disclose any information until I felt secure in a relationship and I would then have '*that*' conversation with them. Women have left me due to advice given to them by their families or doctors. They were advised '*not to touch Stocksie*'. I have lost a couple of very good relationships because of HCV.

63. My wife never let my HCV become a major issue.

64. My education was never how I intended it to be. I would get bored and never finish anything. I attended 3 universities. I would get as much money as I could from my student loan to then go travelling.

65. When I was 16 I went to complete a Diploma in catering. Towards the end I developed psoriasis that covered my body from head to toe. The doctor told me that catering and psoriasis did not go well together; and advised me to find an alternative career. I tried to pursue a career in midwifery and gynaecology, but I was advised not to pursue this due to HCV. I also could not join the military although my doctor advised that being in the sunlight was a good way to heal the psoriasis. This resulted in me taking a landscaping job.

66. In 1995 when I turned 21 years old I still felt very raw about my Hepatitis C status. I had just finished 3 years of working as a Landscaper at £20 per day, 5 days per week. I was fit, healthy, virile and keen to explore the world. For the next 10 years I lived my most stressful years. I moved from Staffordshire to Lancashire, Lancashire to GRO-C GRO-C to Devon and back to GRO-C Eventually I settled in a quiet village in Devon.

67. For 20 years I have been a landscaper and I am now unemployed due to my ill-health. This makes me frustrated and I felt like I was wasting my life working when I could potentially have a very short life.

68. I recall a time in GRO-C, I needed treatment for an ankle bleed, but rather than going back to hospital and having to have 'the conversation' about HCV status and blood tests, I just battled through the bleed alone after completing a 3 month contract for the BBC. The bleed was more tolerable than the thought of having to face the truth at QMC. They always took bloods which meant results and I knew that the results were always going to be bad news.

69. HCV also warped my financial sensibilities and as soon as I got money I spent it because I lived as if everyday could be my last. For the majority of my infection, I had no financial support and I had to live like everyone else.

70. My dirty little secret followed me from school to college, college to university and to the work place. I was legally obliged to divulge my infected status on job applications. I am not sure if this even affected my applications. However over the years my psychological attitude towards work became odd.

71. Initially I was a very hard working chef and landscape labourer for 3 years. Hepatitis C took its told on my head. I stopped caring. I went on the job seeker's allowance, income support, ESA. I spent years battling with the system, claimed DLA for my Haemophilia and was automatically granted.

72. I went to University and got student support funding in the form of a student loan, overdraft, and loans from the bank. I used this money to live life and I lived for the day.

73. I went to Australia for 2 summers in 1999 and 2000.

74. I never completed my degree; it was hard committing to anything properly. I left the University GRO-C without a degree and I ran out of funding.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

75. As I grew up, I would often be prescribed anti-depressants. I have never been offered psychological support. I had to self-heal and I looked into alternative therapies like hypnotherapy.

76. My first experience with NHS Torquay was when I was travelling the Greek islands and Turkey. Some 6 weeks into the trip I had to rush back with a bleed in my ankle. I checked into Torquay Hospital and I was given Factor VIII and admitted for one night. I was then asked to leave. I was on crutches with a backpack and I tried to get back into hospital but was rejected. In fact, upon my attempt I was told that security would be called if I did not leave. I recall I slept on the hospital ground that night. I could not walk and had no money to travel 4 miles from Torquay GRO-C

77. My next experience with Torquay Hospital was not any better. I was quite distressed about my Hepatitis C infection and I went to hospital seeking help. I had questions and I wanted answers or an explanation.

78. The liver nurse specialist GRO-D told me nothing of my status and asked me to make an appointment with a gastroenterologist. She told me to go away basically. She gave me a bottle of antidepressants and told me to leave the hospital grounds or security would be called. I was in a state of distress.

79. I have experienced a range of reactions from hospitals in different counties. The staff at GRO-C University Hospital were very understanding, however

at Gloucestershire I was put in the wrong category, in Birmingham they were cold-hearted and in Devon they were scared.

80. When it came to dental care a lot of the time I did not bother going to the dentist as it was too much hassle. I would have to tell them about my infections and there would often be a lot of little whispers. They would not know how to sterilise their equipment properly. I would usually have to take the last appointment of the day so that the dentist did not have to sterilise everything.

81. I have also been rejected from dental surgeries.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

82. I found out about the schemes in 2007. My liver nurse told me that there might be financial support available.

83. I have received financial assistance from The Skipton Fund. I initially received £20,000 which then increased to £25,000. In 2009 I applied again to for another lump sum and it was immediately declined because I was not sick enough. I appealed the decision but they told me they needed evidence which showed that my health was deteriorating. I had a camera put down my throat to check for varices in my stomach. I did not have any so I was not eligible for the payment.

84. About 6 months ago I started to receive £333 from the EIBSS. Recently I started to receive an additional payment of £1012 per month.

85. On the back of the new EIBSS launched in July 2019, I will be receiving nearly £2200 per month. On the back of this my landscape company seized trading. I am simply too tired. I no longer have the physical or mental energy to continue.

86. Me and my family have no guarantee that EIBSS will continue to pay this sum to us. We have no security, we rent our home and I have no life insurance, no savings and a £7,000 annual tax bill.

87. I would like the payments to be backdated as they have no clue what I have been through.

Section 8. Other Issues

88. I wish it would all just f*** off and be buried. This includes the Inquiry.

89. I really feel for those that have suffered physically, for me it has predominantly been mental anguish.

90. God knows how the infected with HIV, HCV and HBV communities have suffered and endured such agony and disruption in their lives. My heart goes out to them all as well as their families.

91. In 2001 I approached Michelmores Litigators in Exeter. They told me that there was a proceeding happening in Leeds or Manchester. UK law firms were joining an American firm in suing one of the big pharmaceutical companies that sold infected blood which went on for 10 years. By the end of the case I received £5,000 in 2011 but I had to sign a disclaimer waiving my right to sue the pharmaceutical company.

92. I have not been involved in any other litigation or campaigning.

93. I want to make clear to the Inquiry that I have never taken intravenous drugs. I have never received a blood transfusion so the only way that I could have contracted HBV and HCV is through Cryoprecipitate or Factor VIII concentrate.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

94. I do not wish to apply for anonymity.

95. I would be prepared to give oral evidence if the Inquiry invited me to do so. I understand my statement will be disclosed and published as part of the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

DANIEL STOCKS

Dated 12-8-19