

Witness Name: ANDREW JASON SCOTT

Statement No: WITN29370001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: APRIL 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANDREW JASON SCOTT

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I, Andrew Jason Scott, will say as follows:

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Andrew Jason Scott. I was born on GRO-C 1974 and I live at GRO-C  
GRO-C.
2. My father, Stephen Scott (born GRO-C 1953), was infected with the Human Immune Deficiency (HIV) from contaminated blood products. He died from a cerebral haemorrhage on GRO-C 1988 aged 34 years old.
3. My mother and brother have given their own witness statements to the Inquiry (Witness Numbers WITN2940001 and WITN2938001 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 severe Haemophilia A. I believe that my father was treated at the Leeds Haemophilia Centre at St James' Hospital, Leeds.
6. My father was infected with HIV from Factor VIII (FVIII) blood products in 1985 or 1986. I was 13 years old when my father died. I did not find out that he had been infected with HIV for some time after his death. My uncles, Peter and Edward, and cousin, Trevor, were haemophiliacs and died as a result of contaminated blood. Uncle Peter's death was particularly traumatic. I do not remember specifically being told that my father had HIV. I pieced it together myself from snippets of what I heard when each of my family members became ill and died. I learned what had happened to my father through subsequent conversations with my mother and our family members.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

7. I am unaware of any other infections received by my father other than HIV.

## **Section 4. Consent.**

8. From what I understand, my father had not consented to being tested for HIV. The news of my father's diagnosis came as a shock to my parents. My father was told by his doctor in a very off-hand way.

## **Section 5. Impact**

9. I knew my father was unwell but thought his ill health to be haemophilia related. I remember that my father had a fall and developed haematoma at the top of his leg that wouldn't heal and needed packing by the nurses for weeks and weeks.

10. My father's death was a sudden one. He collapsed in the shower and managed to get himself to the bedroom. He shouted from there for me to help him. He said he felt weak and couldn't move. It was a Sunday and a number of our family members were across the road at our local working men's club and I ran there for help from my uncles. He was then taken to hospital and never came home.
11. I visited him at hospital on the Tuesday. We lived near my school and I would come home from school for lunch. I argued with my mother that I wanted to see my dad. She allowed me to go because she knew he was on his way out.
12. I gave up on school after I lost my father. I was not interested and just got by. It was a really tough time for my mother. She had to work really long hours to be able to pay the mortgage and household outgoings. I had to look after my younger brother and sister. We were left to our own devices a lot. I would make sure they were in bed when I went. I had a paper round and needed to get up early. We struggled financially. It was very hard on my mother. We went without holidays and rarely had new clothes.
13. When I found out that my father had HIV I was angry that I was not told sooner but I understand why. The stigma of HIV/AIDS was huge. At the time HIV was known as the 'gay disease' and the world was not as open as now. I have been unable to talk about it to people outside my close family and friends. It has only been within the past couple of years that I have been able to tell the mother of my children and my now wife.
14. I have a decent job but I could have done more. HIV and the loss of my father has had a big impact. My father was robbed of his life. It had a huge psychological impact on my brother as he found it difficult to open up to people about it and was always in denial. I am the father to three children and two stepchildren. They never got to meet their Grandad. My mother endured terrible financial hardship.

**Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

15. We attended a Catholic School. The nuns there were sympathetic that we had lost our father. No offer of support was made to us by the doctors. We couldn't talk to anyone and no-one offered us any counselling.

**Section 7. Financial Assistance**

16. I received a payment from the MacFarlane Trust. It was held in Trust until I was 18 years old.

**Section 8. Other Issues**

17. There are no other issues.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

18. I do not wish to remain anonymous and I understand that this statement will be published and disclosed as a part of the Inquiry. I do not want to give oral evidence.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.....

GRO-C: Andrew Jason Scott

Dated.....5<sup>th</sup> May 2019.....