

Witness Name: DANIEL MARK SCOTT

Statement No: WITN2938001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: MARCH 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DANIEL MARK SCOTT

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I, Daniel Mark Scott, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Daniel Mark Scott. I was born on GRO-C 1977 and I live at GRO-C  
GRO-C West Yorkshire GRO-C. I am married with two children. I am by occupation a Lead Analyst for a UK bank.
2. My father, Stephen Scott (born on GRO-C 1953), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) from contaminated blood products. He died from a cerebral haemorrhage on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1988, aged 34.
3. My mother has given her own witness statement to the Inquiry (Witness Number WITN2940001).
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full 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. I was 11 years old when my father died. I did not find out that he had been infected with HIV for some time after his death. I was 18 or 19 years old when I was told. My mother then relayed to me the circumstances of my father's death to include the appalling, blasé manner in which he was told he had been infected with HIV from Factor VIII (FVIII) blood products in 1985 or 1986.

## **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.

## **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

9. My father fell in the shower and was rushed to hospital on what I remember to have been a Sunday. I was desperate to see him but was told that he was non-responsive, in a coma. I pressured my mother to allow me to go and visit him. He then died of a brain haemorrhage (on what I think was a Wednesday) without me having the opportunity of seeing him.
10. That was the start of me becoming quite insular. My brother and I had to grow up quickly. My mother started working full time (shift work) and my older brother and I had to get ourselves up and take our sister to school, get ourselves home and make our own tea. It was a massive change to our life style. I never talked about my father's death to any of my friends. I did not correct anyone that referred to my mother and father together ie "ask your

mum and dad if ..... ". I let it go. I was not offered support or bereavement counselling. I became detached and disinterested in school.

11. My father's death had an immense impact on my mother. It was a huge financial strain upon her being the only source of household income. She often had to work late nights.
12. When I was 18 or 19 years old, my mother explained to us that my father's death was more than just a brain haemorrhage and that he had contracted HIV through contaminated blood products. I had no idea. My father did not look noticeably unwell to me but I was just 11 years old. He was always relatively thin but in retrospect, he had looked gaunt and thinner before his death. HIV/AIDS was thought of at that time as being a 'dirty' disease. It was still thought of that way in the mid 1990s. My mother had tried to protect us from the associated stigma in not telling us. I did not know how I was supposed to feel and had never allowed myself to grieve for the loss of my father.
13. I became very depressed and began to experience anxiety attacks. Approximately six years ago everything came to a head and my life started to unravel. I had a break down and was admitted to A&E having almost taken my own life. From there I was referred to the Mental Health Crisis Team. The feelings and grief I had repressed together with some other very difficult life experiences had culminated in feelings of being hit by a huge psychological brick that I have struggled to recover from.
14. I have now had CBT and counselling and have started to look for answers to my questions. My uncles, Peter and Edward, and cousin, Trevor, were haemophiliacs and died as a result of contaminated blood. I am not an emotional person but I have now had conversations with my family members about our respective losses that have begun to help me understand what happened to my father. My Uncle Peter's death was a particularly traumatic one. I feel angry that my father found out that he had HIV when he attended what he thought was a normal haemophilia appointment. I am angry and hurt that he was not shown any compassion by the doctor at that very difficult time.

15. The main thing about my family members all being infected by these blood products was that it could have been so easily prevented. I wish no one had gone through the same thing that I have. It is inhumane that so many lives were cut short. I cannot explain the extent of my anger that the Government and the NHS were so negligent in allowing this to happen. My father has missed so much: my marriage, the birth of his grandchildren, watching me play football (I advanced to a very decent level) and so many other experiences.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

16. I do not recall at the time of my father's death being offered any kind of support or counselling.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

17. I received a payment from the MacFarlane Trust when I was 18 years old. I do not recall the exact amount. It helped me purchase a small car and a computer which I used for college. I knew about some money in a trust fund but I thought it was from my mother and father.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

18. There are no other issues except that of the issue of my father's medical notes and records which I understand to be largely unavailable.

#### **Anonymity**

19. I do not wish to apply for anonymity and I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not wish to give oral evidence.

### Statement of Truth

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

Signed. GRO-C .....

Dated 27/03/19.