

Witness Name: BS Stott
Statement No: WITN2979001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: April 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF BRIAN MATTHEW STOTT

I, Brian Matthew Stott will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Brian Matthew Stott and I was born on GRO-C 1959. I live at GRO-C
GRO-C. I am married to my wonderful wife and we have 3 children and 9 grandchildren.
2. I make this statement as an affected person in relation to my late mother, Pauline Mary Stott, who was born on GRO-C 1935 and passed away aged only 39 on 15th March 1974, as a result of her infection with Non-A non-B (NANB) Hepatitis (Hepatitis C as it later became known) following a contaminated blood transfusion.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my mother's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My mother received a blood transfusion during heart surgery at Wythenshaw Hospital, Manchester on 4th March 1974.

5. Her consultant surgeon was Mr Jack Behrens, who we called Mr Jack.
6. My mother was not given any advice or information regarding the risk of receiving whole blood transfusions.
7. My mother was infected with NANB Hepatitis as a result of receiving this contaminated blood transfusion.
8. I believe that the doctors told my father and sister on or around 6th March 1974 that my mother was too poorly to survive "*an infection which she had caught*". I don't think the doctors told my family that it was NANB Hepatitis rather they told the family that it was a liver or kidney infection as a result of which my mother had turned a bright orange.
9. My father and sister were therefore aware that my mother was going to die. I was aged 14 ½ and I had no idea that I was about to lose my mother.
10. I understand that Mr Jack did tell my father on the day my mother passed away that she died from NANB Hepatitis. This was the only time that my mother had ever received a blood transfusion to my knowledge.
11. Mr Jack also told my father that he should claim compensation as a result of what had happened but my father, being a weak character and having already turned to the bottle, never pursued this avenue.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I am unaware as to whether my mother was exposed to any other infections at the time of her surgery on 4th March 1974.

Section 4. Consent

13. I believe that my mother was tested for NANB Hepatitis without her knowledge and therefore without her consent.

Section 5. Impact

14. What happened to my mother was a tragedy. When my mother came round from her operation the surgeon told my father that the operation had been a huge success. Therefore to lose her in such a tragic set of circumstances almost belies belief.
15. My weak father had sat with my mother during the day before she passed away but he then deserted her and left her to die alone at 18:10 hours. I cannot forgive my father for his actions on that day. However, this was only the start of what was yet to come.
16. Once my mother had died, the medical consultants asked my father if they could flush out her kidneys for the purposes of research to which he agreed. The night my father told me about this was the first night of many nights to follow of horrific nightmares. I had nightmares about my mother being cut up and this process taking place. It was the most horrific thing for a 14.5 year old boy to hear from his father when he was grieving for the loss of his mother.
17. Additionally, no one was allowed to see my mother after she passed away as she was placed in a sealed coffin.
18. My father was a lost soul wondering in the wilderness and he found some sort of solace in the bottle.
19. My mother's and father's families abandoned us as they could not deal with my father and his drinking. My siblings and I were left alone to our own devices and had to deal with our own grief and our father's grief as well. It was an impossible situation as we were not able to deal with our own grief let alone the grief of our father.
20. My father [GRO-C] and put us through mental torture. My siblings and I had no one to turn to. It is very difficult recalling

what happened to us because although I don't want to paint my father in a negative light I can only state the facts about what happened.

21. Sadly the day our mother died was the day our family ceased to exist.

22. My father [GRO-C]
[GRO-C]

23. My father tended to use mental torture on me. I remember one night just wanting to kill my father and I was worried that I might be as angry as him.

24. No one every came to the house; not even our grandparents. We had no comfort or anything; [GRO-C]. Our extended family never came out of this situation well. I would be right by the side of any of my children's children if one of my children passed away. My wife and I would be there without a shadow of a doubt. But growing up, my siblings and I had no one. Strangers were kinder to us than family.

25. Luckily I married very young and my wife was and is a wonderful and loving person. She would sit down and listen to me talk. She was and is amazing and allowed me to get the grief out of my system. I am a great believer in talking through things and I don't believe in bitterness. I am happy in my own skin but that is because I have managed not to keep things bottled up.

26. When my father was dying, he came to my wife and me to be cared for. I did not turn him away but I never called him "Dad". The only reason I took him in was because that would have been what my mother would have wanted. The last words that my mother ever spoke were "I love you John". My mother truly adored my father.

27. I remember reaching 15.5 years old and spending a large proportion of my time at the cemetery where my mother was buried. The cemetery was across the road from my school and I would spend days on end there.

28. [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] I was aware

that social services had been called by someone but when a social worker showed up at our house we all told her that everything was fine

GRO-C

the shame factor

GRO-C

GRO-C

29. The last time I was in the house with my father was when I was about 15.5 years old. My sister had come to visit to check that we were okay as she had only recently escaped the nightmare. The last words I ever heard in that house were "*For Christ's sake Brian run*". These were the words of my sister. My father was drunk and screaming at my brothers and me and he was forcefully bearing down on me so my knee came up and my feet made contact with my father's stomach. I was quite tall at this point, despite the fact that I had lost a lot of weight, and my father flew up in the air and ended up behind the chair. He then threw me out with what little possessions I had. It was late at night and my next door neighbour, Mrs Pellowe, took me under her wing and I moved in with her. She was the most wonderful lady and I am so grateful to her for everything that she did for me.

30. My only sibling who stayed with my father was my youngest brother who at the age of 10 was able to be manipulated by my father. My only regret is that I was not able to take him with me as I knew what a rotten life he would have and did have with my father. I regret that I could not help him and he has turned into such a lovely lad.

GRO-C

GRO-C

GRO-C

I did try

and get my younger brother to come and live with my wife after this but he felt guilty as he was basically our father's carer.

31. I applied to join the RAF just before my 17th birthday and Mrs Pellowe helped me with get everything together in order that I could start my new life. I went to RAF Valley on Anglesey in 1977 and this is where I met my wonderful wife.
32. My siblings have all been traumatised by what we went through at the hands of our father following the death of our dear mother. When I see them now they are all still grieving because they have never got it out of their system. Whenever we have a family gathering, they all have a drink and then start crying about what happened all those years ago and I feel very sad for them. Yes we were truly abandoned in a cruel way but one has to find a way to move past this and look to the future.
33. My mother was a very courageous and brave lady and I have tried to adopt some of her qualities. Indeed having met my wonderful wife and with her help I have gone on to have a great marriage which produced 3 beautiful children and 9 grandchildren. I am so proud of my family and of all of our military medals. I feel like I have truly turned my life around.
34. My mother suffered with Rheumatic Fever as a child which damaged her heart so she was always physically poorly but strong minded. She was Catholic and my father was Protestant. She was the strong willed one in my parent's relationship. She arranged to have her father's signature forged so that they could elope and get married.
35. My mother was a caring and loving person. I remember her play fighting and having a laugh with us. She would roll around on the floor with us. She had too many children for a woman with a heart condition but she never drank or smoked.
36. Due to her heart condition my mother had prepared my siblings and me for the fact that she was going to die at a relatively young age. My mother taught us so much; I could cook my own meals by the time I was aged 8 or 9. She taught us to wash and iron our clothes. I remember my mother saying to my sister and me, when I was a young child, that one day she was going to die.

37. In those days people talked about death although they don't today. She prepared us for the inevitable but when she finally got the date for the operation she was ready for a new life. This is why it was so bitter sweet because the operation itself was a huge success and could not have gone better and my mother's future was going to be amazing and something which she had waited for all her life. However, it was in this very operation that she contracted NANB Hepatitis which killed her.

38. My mother lost her future far too early and we lost out as children on a wonderful mother. She was not able to meet her wonderful grandchildren.

39. He only gave up drinking due to the cancer shortly before his death and when the drinking stopped, a decent human being emerged. People used to say to me that when my father was sober he was the nicest person on the planet but when he was drinking he was evil. I would describe him an angel hidden inside a devil.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

40. Following my mother's infection with NANB Hepatitis she was barrier nursed. The medical staff were fully masked and wore gloves; there was no skin to skin contact.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

41. Neither my family nor I received any support from any Trust.

Section 8. Other Issues

42. I want recognition for my mother and I want to know why she died. So many people were affected and there was no reason why any of this should have happened in the first place. All they needed to do was to heat treat the blood.

43. I want answers for my mother's loss of her future; she was aged only 39 when she passed away.

44. The Government and NHS have harmed so many people; they played Russian roulette with people's lives.

Anonymity

45. I do not want to be anonymous and I do not wish to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

14/4/19.