

Witness Name: YASIN SHAIKH

Statement No: WITN3263001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: JUNE 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF YASIN SHAIKH

I, YASIN SHAIKH, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Yasin Shaikh. I was born on 1979 and I live at London
2. My mother, Khalida Shaikh (born on 1947) was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from a transfusion with contaminated blood in or around 1984/1985. She died from Fungal Septicemia and Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma on 18th September 1987, aged 40.
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 was given a blood transfusion at Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham when she had an operation there to remove a large growth/mass from around her arm pit in or around 1984 or 1985. I believe it likely that the operation and

blood transfusion to have taken place in 1985 as I understand that my mother became ill and died within just a couple of years of the transfusion. I do not know the name of the Consultant treating my mother.

5. I was 5 or 6 years old when my mother had the operation but I have a clear memory of feeling very happy that she was coming home from hospital (and was getting better). We were a very close family of four, my mother, father, me and my younger sister. My mother was a warm and very loving person. My parents clearly enjoyed spending time in each other's company. I remember them sitting together chatting, joking and laughing. I remember my mother including me in their jokes. She would say to me (in front of my father) "Which one of us do you love the most? Who do you love the best?"
6. My father is older now and his memory has faded as to the detail of the events. He challenged the situation when my mother subsequently fell ill and it transpired that she had been infected with hepatitis. He wanted to go to Court about it. He saw a solicitor and kept documents and correspondence in a suitcase relating to the challenge for a significant period of time. Nothing became of the legal challenge. He no longer has those documents, having since downsized/moved home.
7. Having been discharged from the hospital following the operation and transfusion, my mother's health took an almost immediate downturn. My father noticed the detrimental change in my mother and recognized that something was very wrong. I remember her skin changed and she became yellow in colour. I remember the concern within the household and the word 'hepatitis' being bandied around. I am certain that my parents were not warned of the risk of infection before my mother had the blood transfusion.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I do not know if my mother received any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

9. I do not know if my mother was treated or tested without her knowledge or consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

10. My mother had to undergo chemotherapy when she developed Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. She lost all her hair and used to wear a wig. I remember finding the wig and was shocked when I realised it was my mothers. I later saw her bald and recall that she had about an inch of hair when it started to grow back. The chemotherapy made her very sick.
11. When my mother was admitted to hospital we had to wear gloves and face masks when visiting her. She was in a lot of pain. Shortly before my 7th birthday, my father picked me up from primary school and said we were going straight to the hospital to visit my mother. He had picked up my birthday cake and had it with him in the hope (I believe) my mother would be up to a celebration for me. Just as we came out of the lift, my Auntie came out of my mother's room crying. The doctor said that my mother had very little time left and that these were her last moments. We arrived just as she was passing into unconsciousness. My mother was buried on the day of my birthday.
12. In stark contrast to the happy home life we shared before my mother became ill and died, the atmosphere at home was sad, quiet and repressive. After a while my sister and father were my normal family. There was no alternative for us. I would see my cousins with their own mothers and it was a stark reminder to me of the absence of mine.
13. As time went by my mother's death began to affect me in ways I did not understand at the time. I had a humble upbringing. We were not an affluent family. As I got older, I did not want to be at home. My life path took a negative turn and from the age of 11 through to 13 I was hanging about with the wrong crowd on the estate where we lived in GRO-C and started to

get into trouble. Thankfully my father was there for me. He would say "I promised your mother to look after you; and look what you are doing?" He brought me to my senses. I am a Senior Sales Manager for Kerry Ingredients with overall charge of the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey. I attribute my success to my father.

14. My father had a promising career as an Electronic Engineer. He had also started studying at home for a law degree. He had to give up work after my mother died to look after us. He would sit for hours on end teaching us Maths, English and Science and generally educating us. We would go through books for 5 or 6 hours straight.

15. My father knew that my mother was worried about our welfare as she was passing and he made a promise to her on her death bed that we, her children, would be his number one priority. My father has suffered a lot. He was relatively young when my mother died. He has never remarried or so much as had a girlfriend or female companion. He loved her a lot. He visits my mother's grave every Friday. He has often said "I wish your mother was here", especially when he has felt out of his depth in dealing with personal matters pertaining to my sister.

16. My sister (being a girl) has in turn missed having her mother around, especially in tough times of emotional need. My sister has a daughter and I have three children. All four of our respective children have missed out on a relationship with their grandmother. My own wife has lost both parents. My children do not have any grandparents apart from my father. He is too old to be able to support us with childcare. Without my mother (and my wife's mother), my wife and I have no family support network to enable us to take a break and/or have a simple night out together. For over 10 years we have never had a night out alone together. My mother was a kind, loving and strong woman. My father has 9 siblings. They all speak highly of my mother and say amazing and respectful things about her.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

17. I do not know if my mother or father received any counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

26. We did not receive any financial assistance.

Section 8. Other Issues

18. There are no other issues.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

19. I am not seeking anonymity and I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I travel a lot with my job but I would be willing to give oral evidence to the Inquiry if I needed and I am able.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed....

GRO-C

Dated

27/02/2019