

Witness Name: SALLY MARIE WAKELIN

Statement No: WITN3269001

Exhibits: WITN3269002

Dated: JUNE 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SALLY MARIE WAKELIN

I, SALLY MARIE WAKELIN, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Sally Marie Wakelin. I was born on GRO-C 1977 and I live at an address known to the Inquiry with my husband and three children. I have an older sister and a half brother (my father's son).
2. My father, David Green (born on GRO-C 1948), was infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) from contaminated blood products. He died from AIDS in October 1992, aged 43.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My father had severe Haemophilia A, diagnosed when he was just a toddler. There were no known haemophiliacs in the family. His mother did not know

that she was a carrier. The family hailed from [GRO-C] and moved to [GRO-C] when my father was very young.

5. I believe that my father attended a special school with other haemophiliac children and children with various illnesses. I do not know the name of the school.
6. My father was under the care of the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton and received his blood product treatment from that hospital. He lived in the [GRO-C] area until his death. He had a lot of Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate on a regular basis over the years.

Section 3. Other Infections

7. I do not know if my father received any other infections than HIV.

Section 4. Consent

8. I do not know if my father was treated or tested without his knowledge and/or consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

9. My parents separated in 1980 when I was just three years old. My sister and I saw my father at weekends for a couple of years. My mother struggled with the break up and it became too difficult for my mother for us to keep in contact with him and we stopped seeing him.
10. In or around the beginning of 1992 my father approached my sister at her place of work and explained to her that he had been infected with HIV and it had developed to full blown AIDS. He said "I do now have AIDS and it is just a matter of time" (before he died).

11. I then saw my dad a couple of times before he died, the first time being 6 or 7 months before his death and then just a few weeks before his death. When I saw him we spoke a lot about the past. He talked a lot about AIDS, his medication and how careful he had to be. He had coped with HIV for a long time. He knew he had been contaminated through FVIII. He had a lot of support from his then wife, Tish. He looked thin and found it physically difficult to do anything for him although he explained to me that he was trying to keep himself busy. He developed a problem with his skin and had trouble breathing and was reliant upon an oxygen tank. He must have been devastated. I would imagine that he was depressed because most people in his situation would be.
12. I had a Saturday job working in Woolworths and Tish's friend appeared there one day and told my Manager there that my father's time was limited and that he only had a matter of days left to live. I then spoke to my mother and she drove me to my father's house in GRO-C to see my father.
13. My father looked terrible and was reliant on oxygen to breathe. He could barely talk but he knew I was there with him. As I left their home I gave Tish my friend's phone number as the best contact number to reach me on.
14. My friend then told me my father had passed away as we were on our way to school one day. I didn't go to school that day. We turned around and spent the day at my friend's home instead. I then told my mum but I did not want to involve her in it too much. I was just 15 years old and I was wary about upsetting her.
15. My parents had a bad break up and it became hard for my sister and I to maintain a relationship with our father. I grew up used to not having my father around but I very much wanted him in my life and looked forward to re-establishing a full relationship with him when I reached adulthood. He was always on my mind and it was so difficult to find out that time was limited for us. I wish I had known him more and been there for him.

16. AIDS always carried a big social stigma because a lot of people did not understand it. Everyone thought it was an infection contracted by homosexuals and it has been necessary for me to go on and explain the circumstances (blood products) surrounding my father's death. My father's death has played on my mind with sadness. At college I studied sociology and I did a whole A level project on AIDS. The project involved asking people lots of questions to find out what they knew. It was interesting because a lot of people got the answers/facts wrong.

17. I have a daughter who is 14 years old, and two sons who are 9 and 5 years old. It is sad that they never knew my father and he never got to know his grandchildren.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

18. I am unable to comment as to my father's treatment and support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

19. I refer to **Exhibit WITN3269002** being an article about my father posted in The Argus, a Brighton based newspaper containing some limited information (through Trish) as to the financial assistance my father received.

Section 8. Other Issues

20. There are no other issues on which I am able to comment.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

21. I am not seeking anonymity but I would like my address redacted before published. However I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not want 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

19/6/2019