Witness Name: Margaret Campbell
Statement No.: WITN2186001
Exhibits: **NONE**
Dated: 15th January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARGARET CAMPBELL

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th November 2018.

I, Margaret Campbell, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Margaret Campbell. My date of birth is GRO-C 1946. My address is known to the Inquiry. By profession I was a teacher working with special needs pupils/young people to the age of 19.

2. I am giving a statement in relation to my husband, Iain Morrison Campbell, date of birth GRO-C 1945. We married in July 1967. Iain died on GRO-C 1996. His death was a result of being infected with

Hepatitis C through infected blood products given in 1978. I will inform on the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact on our lives together.

Section 2. How Affected

3. My husband had a blood condition, Haemophilia A Mild. I was unaware of this until I became pregnant in 1969. Iain's Haemophilia treatment was carried out at the Royal Infirmary Glasgow from the time when he was diagnosed at 12 years old. His consultant at the Haematology Unit was Mr Charles Forbes in 1967 and for some time afterwards. Mr Forbes informed me regarding the birth of children should I have daughters, and the genetic possibility that Haemophilia may be passed down to any sons they may have. I have two daughters, one granddaughter and three grandsons, who have Haemophilia A - Mild.

4. My husband required treatment only when he had a tooth extraction or an operation. During our marriage, Iain had one tooth extraction and 3 hernia operations. His first hernia operation took place in July 1978, the second one in August or September 1983 and the final one in January 1994. Following his final operation in 1994, Iain stated that he was not going to accept any more Factor VIII as it made him feel ill.

5. In April 1976, we went to live in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. We returned in 1978 for our annual holiday and Iain realised that he had a hernia and required an operation. This was carried out, as were all treatments, at the Royal Infirmary Glasgow. He felt unwell afterwards and informed Curacao Drydock Company of this. The Company assured him that when his operation was sufficiently healed he should return and come under the care of their first class care team.

6. I remained in Glasgow to move to our new house in GRO-C. During Iain's return flight via KLM airline he was given a rest room at

Schiphol during stopover as he was so unwell. On his return to Curacao, I was informed of his safe arrival, but then heard nothing for several weeks. In September 1978, my next communication from my husband was a phone call from Iain in the hospital in Curacao. He had been extremely ill with Hepatitis. At that point, there was no diagnosis of the type of hepatitis. He remained in hospital for 6 weeks and I credit the hospital in Curacao for saving his life. I telephoned the Royal Infirmary to inform them about Iain's illness and was told: "Nobody else has it!" Iain's recovery took some time and took two years to fully recover. His hepatitis was classed as Non A/Non B.

7. We returned to live in Scotland in December 1983. Iain had no obvious indications of liver damage at this time, but in August 1983 he required another hernia repair on the same site as the previous one. This was again carried out in the Royal Infirmary Glasgow during our annual holiday. There was no information given regarding risks associated with Factor VIII treatment.

8. Advice given to Iain in Curacao was very clear. No alcohol for two years to allow his liver to fully recover. He followed this advice!

9. For the following years until 1994, there was no definite signs of liver damage other than tiredness, which was observed only by myself in our daily life. At this time, we were living in GRO-C Northumberland, but Iain continued to return to the Royal Infirmary if he required any treatment.

10. Factor 8 was again given repeatedly during 1983 and 1994 operations. Hospital records confirm this.

11. No advice was given regarding cross-contamination at this point. We were absolutely scrupulous about maintaining hygiene standards.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. My husband was infected with hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

13. I am not aware of my husband having been treated or tested without his consent. However, he was tested for Hepatitis C during his 1994 operation at the Royal Infirmary Glasgow. No information was given regarding the Hepatitis C infection and no consent was requested or given.

Section 5. Impact

14. As previously stated, my husband had his final hernia operation in January 1994 in the Royal Infirmary Glasgow. Some weeks afterwards a request was received for both of us to return for a consultation at the Haematology Department. Before we had sat down in his office, he delivered the information: "We have infected all 3,000 of our patients with Hepatitis C". My husband was silent. I asked, "what do we do now?" He replied: "you'll just have to learn to live with it!" This was delivered in a very blunt manner with absolutely no consideration for user impact of this information. The hospital organised for a scan of Iain's liver to be carried out. This was carried out in July 1994 (approximately). We did not receive the result until approximately six months later.

15. Iain's scan result was given to us by a doctor who announced that he was a pancreas surgery student and knew nothing about the liver. I then produced a short article I had cut out from the Daily Mail Tuesday medical pages regarding treatment for Hepatitis C liver infection. Interferon was mentioned as treatment but was not yet licensed for use in this respect. I said: "this is what I know!" Having realised the apathy and careless attitude of the Royal Infirmary, I then requested that we transfer any further treatment to the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle which is renowned as a specialist liver hospital.

This was duly done and medical liver specialist Professor Bassendine accepted Iain as a patient. We were living in GRO-C at this time.

16. In early 1995, Professor Bassendine began her own investigations and in May of that year, Iain was received at the Freeman Hospital to begin and be instructed on how to use Interferon treatment. Iains surgical consultant was Derek Manas whom I believe is now head of transplant surgery at the Freeman Hospital. Following three months of treatment, there was no significant improvement in Iain's condition so the treatment was deemed unsuccessful. This information was given by a young Australian female doctor. I asked: "What are you going to do now? You can't leave him with nothing!" She answered: "Do not despair Mrs Campbell, in two years there will be a pill available." I replied instinctively: "That will be too late for Iain!"

17. In September of 1995, approximately, Professor Bassendine telephoned. She told Iain that he had "a pin prick cancer in his liver". She requested that we both come to the hospital the following Monday. Iain was subsequently taken in for transplant assessment. This decision was supported by the Transplant Team. Transplant assessment involved a liver and lung biopsy, both painful and unpleasant. He was also given chemotherapy treatment into his liver.

18. Iain's transplant was carried out in November 1995 by Mr Thick as Derek Manas was on holiday. Iain was also given a chemotherapy treatment during his operation. Mr Michael Thick was Head of Transplant surgery at this time.

19. Iain was released from Hospital on 15th December 1995. We were delighted and full of hope. Our family doctors in Alnwick Surgery were very supportive. Dr Gary Fraser (now retired) took responsibility for Iain's care at home. I maintained careful observation as instructed by the hospital. While monitoring his temperature on 2nd January 1996, I noticed that it had gone up. The Freeman Liver Team asked me to take him down and he was admitted for observation. He was asked:

"how are you feeling?" He answered: "Better than I've ever felt in my life!" They then asked if he had a cough. He answered: "No". Professor Bassendine told us that they were going to give him an X-ray and added: "We're going to check to the top of your head".

20. The cancer had "spat into his lungs". This was devastating news. Professor Bassendine said they could "knock it out but not get rid of it". Unfortunately, anti-rejection drugs were not compatible with chemotherapy! Some weeks later, I was called in to Dr Bassendine's Assistant Consultant's office. He showed me Iain's chart where cancer indication had reached the top of the chart. He told me: "We expect Iain to die from this illness and it will be weeks rather than months!" I drove thje 31 miles home to GRO-C

21. Iain passed away on GRO-C 1996. It was devastating for all of us, the girls, myself and his Core Team. He was described by them as: "the nicest patient we ever had in this unit". Some of the Team travelled to GRO-C to attend his funeral on 1st June 1996.

22. I do not think that an alternative treatment was available for cure for Hepatitis C at that time. I enquired as to the cost of Iain's transplant operation and was told that it did not come from the NHS, but from a separate budget.

23. At the time of Iain's death, both my daughters were living in Surrey and were unable to visit other than on "days off". This was very isolating for me both physically and emotionally.

24. I remained living in GRO-C and working in GRO-C I moved to live in GRO-C in order to reduce my travel time and reduce my mortgage burden. In effect, I was unable to maintain my home in GRO-C without financial difficulty. This was in December 1999.

25. I found it very difficult to deal with the "aloneness" of a solitary life as I had been part of a large family and all the hustle and bustle that comes with it. I suppose I kept looking for Iain everywhere!

26. I moved house on several occasions finding it very difficult to settle down as nothing seemed even mildly permanent. I accepted the most demanding teaching situations, which I found challenging but satisfying, exhausting and experientially extensive. My main mantra to keep going was: "I will not let him down".

27. I was left to deal with everything and felt unprotected and devoid of a sense of security. Everything I trusted had gone. There was no follow-up support available or offered from anywhere.

28. I remain distrustful of medical situations and maintain as much vigilance as possible over treatments for my three grandsons, who have Haemophilia A Mild.

29. Emotional support from my daughters was immeasurable despite their own anger and distress.

30. Following Iain's illness in 1978, he worried a great deal about our house in GRO-C so I felt it wiser to sell it in order to help his recovery. This rendered us homeless but it was necessary for Iain's peace of mind.

31. The desolation and devastation of the whole situation surrounding Iain's illness and death has been exacerbated by the fact that there has been no admission, no honesty, no honour and no responsibility taken for his tragedy.

32. During the last 24 years there have been many occasions when I felt I was fighting a losing battle with emotional and financial insecurity, despair and hopelessness.

33. I find it difficult to accurately describe the depth of pain inflicted on my daughters and myself over the untimely death of their father and my husband. The initial extreme distress mutates to an unimaginable

depth of mental agony as the years have gone by with no acknowledgement or responsibility being taken by anyone.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

34. There was no ongoing support after Iain died other than care of my local GP, who "kept an eye" on my state of mind. Around the time of Iain's transplant operation and recovery the Freeman Hospital and local doctor maintained immediate care, should it be necessary.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

35. I did not have any knowledge of any assistance in England. After the birth of my grandchildren and diagnoses of Haemophilia A Mild for the three boys, we joined the Haemophilia Society Scotland. Some time later, information was sent with regard to available grants and funding through the Skipton Society. I made an application and after having partial hospital records provided to them, they gave me £70,000 about 8 years ago. Prior to this there was no assistance.

36. Following many meetings, investigations and clinical review, the Scottish Government set up the N.S.S. support scheme, which provides me with just over £20,000 split over 12 months.

37. This is adequate support for me, but is 23 or 24 years late! There was no funding available around the time of my husband's death.

Section 8. Other Issues

38. Prior to Iain's death, he asked me if I would do something about it. I spoke to Alan Beith during his Alnwick surgery. I asked him to sign the Early Day Motion regarding contaminated blood. He said: "this is a

national scandal" and said he would sign. This was in December 1995.

39. I made many efforts to do this as Iain asked, but to no avail. This is the first time I have been able to fulfil my promise to him. I do this for him and all the other people who have been and continue to be devastated by this tragedy. This is also for my three grandsons, to make sure this does not happen again.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 7th March 2019