

Witness Name: Margaret McEneaney

Statement No.: WITN2199001

Exhibits: **NONE**

Dated: 27th February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARGARET MCENEANEY

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

I, Margaret McEneaney, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Margaret McEneaney. My date of birth is GRO-C 1937. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am retired. I intend to speak about my friend's daughter Maria Armour. In particular, the nature of her illness, how the illness affected her, the treatment received and the impact it had on him/her.

Section 2. How Affected

2. I have known Maria Armour for what will be coming up on 5 years. I am friends with her mother, Margaret Wilson.
3. I believe that Maria had a blood transfusion during the 1980s during a hysterectomy. It is my understanding that this transfusion contained contaminated blood. I did not know Maria when this occurred. I am unsure if this would have been at the Southern General or the Royal Victoria Infirmary.
4. I am unsure when Maria was told that she had hepatitis C. I don't think she was told for quite a while. I am unable to be specific about how long this would have been.
5. I believe that Maria was tested and that is how they found out. I believe that the damage was all well done by the time they did the tests.
6. I know that over time they have discovered that Maria suffers from Lupus and Fibromyalgia. I believe that she may also have depression.
7. Maria has lost weight even in the time I have known her. She was such a lively person but she does not have the health now to be able to be as lively as she once was.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. As far as I know, Maria was infected only with Hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

9. I am unaware if consent has been an issue around Maria's treatment or testing.

Section 5. Impact

10. I am not aware which treatment Maria will have had for her hepatitis C, but I believe that she will still be on some sort of treatment for it now. I just know that the hepatitis C was well into her system by the time they treated her. I believe that Maria started her treatment before I knew her. I am not sure exactly when Maria found out about having hepatitis C.
11. It is my understanding that Maria's condition had a big impact on her family life. I know it has affected her mother. Her mother has sat watching her slowly die for a long time. I suppose Maria must feel much the same.
12. Maria's daughters would be in their late 20s or early 30s. She also has grandchildren. She was able to be more hands on with her grandchildren when I first knew her. She cannot do so much with them now.
13. I believe that there has been a big impact on Maria's social life due to her condition. Maria was so full of life before, but she is no longer like that. I have seen a big change over time. She is socially withdrawn and gets tired very easily. I have seen her try and have nights out, but she has to go home earlier than I imagine she would have if she was well.
14. Maria is no longer able to work. She was the sort of girl who went to college and has good degrees. I believe that she stopped work around the time that she found out about her Hepatitis C. I understand that she went for a social work job and had to advise the interviewer of her condition and could not get the job. I believe this is a mixture of her hepatitis C, lupus and fibromyalgia.

15. I would think that the stigma has probably impacted her. I think it's certainly had an impact on her being able to work.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

16. Any treatment or counselling would have been too personal for me to discuss with Maria.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

17. I would not discuss financial matters with Maria.

Section 8. Other Issues

18. I do not wish to be made anonymous.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 13/3/19