

Witness Name: Raymond Alan Jones
Statement No. WITN2363001
Dated: 18th December 2018

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RAYMOND ALAN JONES

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry rules 2006 dated 12th December 2018. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, Raymond Alan Jones, will say as follows:-

1. Introduction

1. My name is Raymond Alan Jones. My date of birth and address are known to the Inquiry.

2. How Infected

1. My father, Ivor George Jones was born on the GRO-C 1911. He died on the GRO-C 1979. He had six children of which I am one. I

am married to Louvain Jones and have two children and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

2. My father was a fit and very proud man in his lifetime. He had worked as a miner, and then became a soldier in the Army. During his time in the Army he served as an Engineer in the Royal Engineers and a Warrant Officer. He was a man who had worked hard all his life and also worked as a Fitter in a company which manufactured aluminium up until he retired.
3. I believe that my father became infected with HIV when he went into St. Woolos Hospital at 131 Stow Hill Newport NP20 5SZ in or around 1977/78 for an operation for the removal of an enlarged testicle. Whilst visiting my father whilst he was in hospital, I was told by one of the nurses who I happened to know, that my father had had to receive some transfusions as there had been complications during the operation. After about 1-2 weeks, my father was sent home and recovered from his operation. I believe my father became infected at this time because one day I was at the dentist and happened to pick up a magazine. In the magazine was an article about HIV and described the symptoms of the infection. The symptoms described were exactly the same as the symptoms my father suffered during his illness.
4. My father then became ill approximately 12 months after the operation. He lost a significant amount of weight, he went from approximately 14 stone to just 7 stone. I remember that he seemed to be losing co-

ordination and kept falling/tripping over and losing his balance. I also remember for example, he could not get a cup of tea from the saucer to his mouth without spilling it. It was as if the signals from his brain were confused. His muscles just seemed to be wasting away.

5. He attended the University Hospital of Wales at Heath Park Way, Cardiff in relation to the problems with his legs and at one time, had to wear callipers on both of his legs. The doctors at the University Hospital of Wales began tests on him and I believe they took some tissue from his legs and sent it to a doctor in Harley Street for it to be tested. A diagnosis was never made, or at least never communicated to my father.
6. During the time the doctors were carrying out tests, my father was put on steroids. This made him much better and able to get around, but this was short lived as my father was only able to take the steroids for a short length of time. Once the steroids were stopped, my father went down hill pretty quickly. He could not stand or walk and lost a significant amount of weight. We were unable to leave him alone as he needed continuous care. He then died on the GRO-C 1979 but I believe that he was unaware of the HIV infection.
7. On my father's death certificate it describes cause of death as Cerebral Thrombosis and Peripheral Neuropathy there is no reference to HIV but I believe that my father suffered the symptoms of HIV and these contributed to his death.

8. About 18 months after my father has passed away, I happened to meet the nurse that I knew from St. Woolos Hospital. She told me that the blood they had used to transfuse my father had been contaminated blood. This information was told to me in confidence and I was told not to say anything to anyone.

3. Other Infections

1. I am not aware that my father had any other infections.

4. Consent

1. My father was unaware of what the doctors from the University Hospital of Wales were testing him for. They did not discuss the reason with him as to why they were sending tests off to a doctor in Harley Street, only that they were trying to find out the reason why his muscles were wasting away in his legs and to get a diagnosis.

5. Impact

1. My father's illness impacted on his private and social life. For example, he was a very active man and enjoyed dancing, DIY and was an enthusiastic mechanic fixing up motorbikes and cars. Everyone would bring their motorbikes/cars to my father to fix. I would spend a lot of time with my father, we both enjoyed going shooting. He also loved

travelling and would go on regular caravan holidays with my mother, but when he became ill all of these things stopped as he was too unwell. He was even too unwell to spend time with his grandchildren.

2. My father's illness and him being infected has left me feeling upset and angry that he was infected through no fault of his own and without his knowledge.

6. **Treatment/Care Support**

1. To my knowledge my father did not face any difficulties in obtaining treatment but the difficulty seemed to be in obtaining a diagnosis.

7. **Financial Assistance**

1. My father or I have and did not receive any financial assistance.

8. **Other Issues**

1. I have been advised by the Health Authority that my father's medical records from the University Hospital of Wales and St. Woolos have been destroyed.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..

GRO-C

Dated.....

18-12-2018