Witness Name: CHRISTOPHER JOHN BRADLEY
Statement No: WITN3665001
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Dated: September 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHRISTOPHER JOHN BRADLEY

I, CHRISTOPHER JOHN BRADLEY will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Christopher John Bradley. I was born on GRO-C 1968. I live at GRO-C Scotland GRO-C I live with my wife and our 8 year old son, GRO-C. I currently work as a college lecturer in Film and Sounds Production.

2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are referred to in the body of the statement.

Section 2. How infected

3. I was diagnosed with Haemophilia A when I was around 18 months old. I fell over, bruised myself and the bruising did not go down. I was diagnosed with Haemophilia at Rankin hospital in Greenock. My mother's brother was a Haemophiliac.

4. I received little treatment when I was first diagnosed but a year or two later I was given cryoprecipitate (cryo) at Yorkhill Hospital and then in 1984 (pretty much on my 16th birthday) I moved to Glasgow Royal Infirmary Hospital. My mother kept a hand written record of all the Factor VIII concentrate (FVIII) batch numbers. It shows I first received FVIII home treatment on 9 March 1979. A copy of my treatment record is attached as Exhibit WITN3665002.

5. My mother injected me initially at home and then, at some point, we changed over and I started injecting and treating myself. I was having prophylaxis treatment and injecting myself twice a week. All my treatment was from the Glasgow Royal Infirmary except for a period of approximately one and half years when I was living in Cambridge and went to Addenbrookes Hospital.

6. My mother was not told of any risk surrounding FVIII. FVIII was considered advancement in the treatment of Haemophilia and a great product. Cryoprecipitate had successfully dealt with my bleeds but then I was told about this 'new wonder drug' which meant we didn't have to do a 25 mile trip to Glasgow. It was an obvious benefit. At no point was it mentioned to me that the blood was pooled in different ways. I am not aware of the names of the product I was given. Neither I nor my parents were advised of any risk of treatment by way of FVIII.

7. In October 1985 I was told in a standard clinic at Glasgow Royal Infirmary Hospital that I was infected with HIV. I saw Dr GRO-D, the Consultant who I did not see very often, and he said "I'm here to tell you something you already know, you're HIV positive". This was new information to me and the first time it had been mentioned. I was not given any information about when I was infected. He started discussing preventive measures such as being careful if I had a bleed, using protection, and not sharing my toothbrush. It was a 10

minute conversation. It was a very matter of fact meeting. I was told that I had been exposed to HIV and I was positive and he eluded to the fact that it may be 2 years before onset of AIDS. I was studying science and I was very aware of the condition; I knew what it meant.

8. I think once Dr GRO-D told me I had HIV, I blanked it out. I was keen to get out of the room. I was on my own when I found out the news. I had just started University and when I left the hospital I was due to attend a lecture. However, I walked from the hospital to the university and walked on to the station and went home to Greenock. I asked someone in the class to make notes for me; I was in a bit of a daze.

9. In the late 80s or early 90s I was asked to join in a group litigation conducted by Robinson and Ross, solicitors. I met with the lawyer a few times. At some point they asked 'how do you feel about being non A non B Hepatitis positive?' This was the first time I knew I had Hepatitis. The lawyer told me from the notes he had that I had a history of 'abnormal liver function tests'. Nobody at the hospital had told me this previously. I attach at Exhibit WITN3665003 a copy letter dated 24 June 1988 from Dr GRO-D to my solicitors which indicates that retrospective testing of stored serum showed that I became HIV antibody positive in 1983.

10. When the lawyer told me I had Hepatitis it was a surprise but Hepatitis was another thing going around so I just assumed I had it because I had HIV. I was surprised however that the hospital had not told me.

11. I did not go back to the hospital and question them on what the lawyer had told me because it was embarrassing. I started to drift away from contact with the hospital. My relationship with the nurses was great but you would not talk about specifics and I didn't feel comfortable enough with a doctor to bring it up. There was an unspoken understanding that they knew I knew. It was not until I moved to the Brownlee clinic for my HIV treatment that HCV was mentioned to me.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. As far as I am aware I have not been informed of any other infection.

Section 4. Consent

13. I was never informed that I was being tested for HIV or HCV. My blood was taken at the clinic and I assumed that this was only for the purpose of checking my FVIII levels. I know my mother was never told I was being tested either.

14. At the time I did not think I was being used for the purposes of research. There have been no indications directly but I was being tested a lot and I was never clearly informed of why.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

15. I was told about my HIV status on my own and on the train on the way home the big issue I considered was whether to tell my parents or not. That was a very worrying aspect. I had an "old school" relationship with my parents so I wrestled about how to tell them in a matter of fact way. I did tell them later that day. I told them being HIV positive was not AIDS and it probably would not become active. I told them in a very lackadaisical way as I did not want them to be overly upset. After I had I told them they did not bring it up again until a month or two afterwards when they went to the doctors to discuss it in more detail and to gain more information.

16. In terms of progress I was generally well whilst I was at university. I had wanted to go to university since I was a young boy. As I had been told I was HIV positive in my first year, there were a few times when I wondered what

the point of completing my course was, but it was a whole new world and something I had wanted to do since I was 6 or 7 years old; I was not going to give it up.

17. I found out I was HIV positive when I was 17 years old whilst I was at uni. This is also the age when you start thinking about and developing relationships. I did try to ignore that part of my life but I found that I was attracted more and more to girls. As the months went by I eventually did go out with one girl and I was up front about my status. It was a worrying moment but bizarrely she was fine. The difficulty I found was the fact it was not so hard for me to deal with my infections as I had assumed that I had it but the fact that developing relationships, creating bonds and for girls to accept my condition was a huge commitment for them. I ended up in a couple of relationships but both committed too heavily and I ended up finishing with them. This was traumatic in itself as I had to wrestle with myself that girls had wanted to actually commit to me and I was finishing these relationships.

18. I had one girlfriend but our relationship did not progress because of my infected status. This was completely understandable, but it did not make it any less heart breaking. It's hard enough if someone dumps you because they don't like you but when it is out of your control it is even worse.

19. When I look back on my university days I know some people would think it was weird to do a course when your prognosis was only 2 years but going to university was more enjoyable than being at home so to me it was a no brainier to study a degree. The degree was immunology. It was not an attempt to cure myself of AIDS; I had always wanted to be a scientist. I then moved into evolution and genetics. I wanted to go into research and a professor from Cambridge asked if I would like to do a PHD in Cambridge with him. It was exactly what I wanted to do.

20. I completed my degree and in 1989 I went to Cambridge University to do a PHD. I was symptom free when I moved but by the very fact that I was at Cambridge and doing a PHD my work load increased and it was much harder

work. I also began to have personal issues and my health was affected. My CD4 count went down and I felt like I was drifting towards the inevitable outcome.

21. In around 1990 my doctor at Addenbrookes Hospital said that I needed to start taking some medication because my health was going in the wrong direction. I had shingles, constant colds and fevers. I started on AZT as this was the only medication available.

22. AZT was not great and I would not say it was a happy experience taking this drug. However, it was hard to tell if my decline in health was from the side effects of the drug or because of my condition. As AZT was the only "game in town" I kept on it.

23. Due to everything combined I decided to leave Cambridge after a year and a half. I needed to relax, have no stress and try and be in a better medical condition. I had to give up my chosen career path. I thought I needed to go home and stabilise. It was not that I was giving up, not going home to die but to get my mind and body into the right state as I was only 21 at the time.

24. HIV and HCV have therefore affected my career path. In a perfect world I would have worked in science; it was very hard to leave because Cambridge was amazing.

25. Dad was an avid sound recordist so throughout my life I had been involved in music and recording. I decided that I would develop this skill. I did a diploma in a private college and became a freelance sound engineer.

26. My health improved. Having been born with Haemophilia people would say "it must be hard" but I always thought the opposite. I was born with it so had nothing to compare it with. I had spent a lot of time in hospital as a child and I learnt a lot about how lucky I was. Some children in hospital were much worse off than I was and had conditions they would die from. I had certain

limitations but everything was balanced. When HIV came to light Haemophiliacs were one of the groups of people who were becoming HIV positive so in my head I thought I would have it. I thought the same about Hepatitis. I just rationalized it as something that I would get. So even with HIV I felt positive. I have a very positive attitude to life which is a real bonus and I feel that my positive state of mind has helped me throughout my life. My positivity was probably a defence mechanism as well. I had studied immunology and I understood that a positive attitude has a large part to play in one's health.

27. In about 1994 I went to talk to the head of the Department of Engineering at the college in which I now lecture. The college wanted to add some new sound courses and I was asked how I thought they could do it. I was quite proactive in the local area and by the end of the chat I was given a job. I have been teaching now for over 20 years.

28. The Brownlee Clinic did try and get me off AZT as soon as something better became available.

29. In the mid 90s I went through a combination of different drugs. The brand names were different and from early to mid 90s some drugs were worse than others. One drug in particular came in a liquid form and I can still taste it to this day; it was impossible to take. I ended up making my own pills from it; it had such a toxic taste.

30. I am now currently on a triple medication and have a non detectable viral load. I still go to the Brownlee Clinic every 6 months for check ups. Recently they stopped testing for viral loads because they believe it is unnecessary. I think they will only do it every few years now.

31. Even though I had 'abnormal liver results' this has never been explained to me and I have never felt ill with it. I had Interferon and Ribavirin clearing treatment in the mid 90s for 6 months in total. This was as an early preventative measure. I was relatively lucky with the treatment. I thought it

was hard and there were some side effects but I got through the treatment. The light at the end of the tunnel was that I could clear the virus. I scheduled the treatment so it was through my long summer holiday break so if I was feeling bad it would have fewer problems with work. The treatment was problematic at the start and I suffered from lethargy. After 6 months I cleared the virus. Fortunately it worked; they told me it may not. I would not like to do it again.

32. My treatment at Brownlee has been very good; they were proactive with clearing the HCV. In the early days, however, it was different at Glasgow Royal. I recall I needed a toe nail removed in the early 80s and it was during the peak of the AIDS scare in the media. I thought it was great being put in my own room. I did not realise at the time that I was put in there for a reason. Whenever people came in they would have hazard suits on.

33. My wife and I were friends before we dated. We then realised that maybe the two of us should date. It was not a secret that I was a Haemophiliac but rumours started spreading among local females and she was told to watch out about me. I felt that outsiders looking in may think I should not have relationships. When I told her I was HIV positive I don't think it was a surprise and it did not bother her in the slightest. We married in 2004.

34. One of my ex girlfriends had researched ways to have children. When that relationship ended I did not think about it until years and years later and had given up really on having my own children. However, my wife said she would love a child and asked if it was possible. We looked into it but never took it any further. It was then that one of my consultants asked if we had thought about children. He then said 'well you can just have one'. My viral loads were undetectable and had been so for a number of years and he felt very strongly that it would not be a problem. Therefore we had our son, GRO-C in the normal way.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

35. I have never had any counselling but I think it was offered. However, by the time it was offered I had resolved how I felt about it.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

36. I received a lump sum payment of £23,500 which I understand was the single person allowance from the MacFarlane Trust. It was an ex gratia payment.

37. I had to sign a waiver to get the payment. At the time I did not want to sign it; I did not have anyone to leave the money to. It felt like they were trying a "get out" and I felt pressurised. I felt blackmailed as they said that by not taking it I would deprive others. I was told that everyone should accept it because otherwise it would make it difficult for everyone else. You felt by not taking the money you were causing problems for everyone.

38. I also received a payment of £20,000 because I had HCV.

39. I also receive the Scottish support scheme monthly income for being HIV and HCV positive.

40. I have heard some horror stories about the MacFarlane Trust but I have not had any problems with them personally. I did ask them for help with my mortgage and they put me in touch with their mortgage advisor who was very helpful. They paid some fees for the transfer of my mortgage.

41. I have never applied for life insurance as I have always heard that I would be laughed at if I ever requested the same.

Section 8. Other Issues

42. At the time it never crossed my mind that the whole thing was anything other than an unfortunate issue. I have spent most of my life in hospitals being treated by professionals who were doing everything they could to make me feel better and they have my upmost respect for that. It was not until years later I started to hear certain things. The thing I thought was very strange is the fact we were all getting different batches of treatment. It was clear that there were some worries. They never told me when it was different types of FVIII and I did not keep records of the treatment I received, only batch numbers. We were never told of commercial FVIII but there was a joke that 'Scotland's FVIII treatment was safer and better'. I never really had an understanding of it. I took it on the understanding I was getting the same thing week in week out. I should have been told of the risk and then I could have made the decision about whether I wanted to inject myself twice a week on a prophylaxis basis or have a different form of treatment.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

43. I do not wish to be anonymous. I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I would be willing 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** ....

Christopher John Bradley

Dated...............7/10/19.......................