

Witness Name: MITCHELL SOLOMON STOCKS

Statement No: WITN5238001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: December 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MITCHELL SOLOMON STOCKS

I, Mitchell Solomon Stocks, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Mitchell Solomon Stocks. I was born on **GRO-C** 1969 and I live at **GRO-C** Staffordshire **GRO-C**
2. Two of my brothers were infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products.
3. My brother, Daniel Stocks (born on **GRO-C** 1974), has provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry (WITN0458001). My brother, Ben Stocks (born on **GRO-C** **GRO-C** 1975), has provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry

(WITN4717001). My mother, Susan Earnshaw, has also provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry (WITN4716001).

4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my brothers' medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. I am the eldest brother of four. I have mild Haemophilia A. The brother closest to me in age, Lee, does not have haemophilia. Daniel (Dan) has mild Haemophilia A and Ben has severe Haemophilia A.
6. We were treated at the Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) under the care of Professor GRO-D We were treated in hospital initially, involving long stays on Ward 6 under Sister Marion, with bed rest, elevated limbs where necessary, Cryoprecipitate and with Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate. As a result, our family is very familiar with the Haematology Department. We were always up at the hospital mainly for treatment for Dan and Ben. After a while, we learned to self-administer the FVIII concentrate at home.
7. My brothers only found out that they were positive for HCV when they each transferred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), Dan in 1992 and Ben in 1993. They were told by our Consultant Dr Wilde and were given a letter in a brown envelope containing the result. I remember them flashing the letters around at home. We were all shocked. Dan and Ben were infected under BCH but had been given no information whilst registered at BCH.
8. I do not remember being given any warning about the risk of infection. We didn't know that there was a problem until my brothers, alongside a lot of others, found out that they were infected.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. Dan was also infected with the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV).
10. I received a letter informing me that I may have been infected with vCJD. I was scared by it and it made me wonder what else was around the corner. I haven't heard anything further and do not know what the situation is now. I have spent a lot of time worrying about it.

Section 4. Consent.

11. We were all three tested without consent on multiple occasions both at BCH and QEH. There were a lot of blood tests from what I remember and we spent a lot of time waiting around at the hospital for tests and result. I do not know what all the tests were for. I was tested for HIV and HCV at some time (I cannot remember when) because I was informed of a negative result. I am unable to say as to whether or not we were used for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

12. Being a child with haemophilia in the 1980s was not easy. Through stigma, we were branded as having AIDS at school. I was known as a haemophiliac and didn't want to say anything. I didn't like the attention. I feared going to school and our parents (mother and father) didn't like us going into school anyway in case we got a bleed. There was a lot of tension at school and at home between our parents. A lot of their discussions were all very hush hush.
13. As an adult, I experienced more HIV/AIDS related stigma. I was refused dental treatment because I had haemophilia. I obtained a part-time job with a print company and after completing six months I was offered a very good full-time job

with that company as a printer. I was sacked the next day after declaring I had haemophilia on the paperwork.

14. When I learned that my brothers were infected with HCV, I became paranoid and worried about my own chances. I kept well away from the Haemophilia Centre. I didn't want to go there even when I had a bleed. It affected me personally and caused me harm as I didn't seek treatment as often as I should have. I only started having treatment again after they brought out a non-human product (Replinate I think it was).

15. Through having HCV, I remember Ben having a liver biopsy. I was with him at the time and he was in a lot of pain. The thought that I too might be infected with HCV and also need a liver biopsy scared me. When I wasn't called for one (a liver biopsy), I assumed I didn't have the virus.

16. I worried about my brothers greatly and had many sleepless nights. Having HCV played havoc with them psychologically. I still worry about Dan big time. His liver is scarred and I really feel for him.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

17. Dan had an unsuccessful six month course of Interferon and Ribavirin before finally clearing the virus with tablets in or around 2016. Ben has apparently self-cleared the infection. Nobody was offered any counselling or support with the infection.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

18. I refer to my brothers' Statements.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

19. I do not wish to apply for anonymity. I do not wish to give oral evidence. I am aware that this statement will be published and disclosed as a part of the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed... GRO-C

Dated.....23/12/2020.....