

Witness Name: Yvonne Hazel Amey

Statement No.: WITN0182001

Exhibits: WITN1820002 -

Dated: 17/04/19

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FINAL WRITTEN STATEMENT OF YVONNE HAZEL AMEY

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 8 January 2019.

I, Yvonne Hazel Amey, will say as follows: -

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Yvonne Hazel Amey. I was born on the GRO-C 1943 and my address is known to the inquiry. I was infected with Hepatitis C after a blood transfusion. I intend to speak about my condition and living with Hepatitis C. In particular the circumstances of the infection, how having Hepatitis C has affected my life, the treatment I have received, and the impact of the illness on my family and those around me.

#### Section 2. How Infected

2. I was infected with Hepatitis C sometime between 1981 and 1986. In January 1981 I was involved in a car accident on the M5, travelling between Bristol and Birmingham. Consequentially, injury and trauma sustained caused me to haemorrhage from the womb. I was taken to

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF YVONNE HAZEL AMEY

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 8 January 2019.

I, Yvonne Hazel Amey, will say as follows: -

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Yvonne Hazel Amey. I was born on the GRO-C 1943 and my address is known to the inquiry. I was infected with Hepatitis C after a blood transfusion. I intend to speak about my condition and living with Hepatitis C. In particular the circumstances of the infection, how having Hepatitis C has affected my life, the treatment I have received, and the impact of the illness on my family and those around me.

#### Section 2. How Infected

2. I was infected with Hepatitis C sometime between 1981 and 1986. In January 1981 I was involved in a car accident on the M5, travelling between Bristol and Birmingham. Consequentially, injury and trauma sustained caused me to haemorrhage from the womb. I was taken to

Sandwell General Hospital, in Birmingham. Here I was treated and given medication for my iron levels. At this point I was not given any blood or blood products.

3. As a result of the injury, up until 1986, I used to bleed heavily from the womb every month. Subsequently, I had to have three dilation and curettage (D&C) procedures to remove tissue from inside my uterus. It was during these procedures I was given my first blood transfusion. In April 1986, I underwent a hysterectomy at the Women's Hospital in Birmingham to remove my womb. I was then given a further blood transfusion. I believe I was infected with Hepatitis C between the years of 1981 and 1986, whilst receiving the blood transfusions during the operations.
4. Prior to the operation and transfusions, the medical professionals had not sought my consent for the transfusion. Moreover, I was not told about the risk of being given infected blood.
5. Following the operations and transfusions, I started to donate blood to the blood transfusion bank at Oldbury, in Sandwell West Midlands.
6. In 1991, I received a letter from the haematology department asking me to make an appointment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Here, I was informed I had been infected with Hepatitis C. I do not, unfortunately, remember which doctor I had spoken to at the haematology department.
7. At the appointment I was not given any explanation as to how I was infected with Hepatitis C, nor was I given information about the disease itself i.e. the effects of it. I recall being asked, in a cold manner, whether I was a drug user. I was not given any advice about how to manage the infection and there was little to no information given about potential courses of treatment.

8. Had I been informed earlier I was infected with Hepatitis C, given information on treatment, and how to manage the disease I would not have continued to act as a blood donor. I cannot recall the year, but it was only later, whilst attending appointments, at a liver unit I picked up leaflets on how to manage and live with Hepatitis C. I was going to the liver unit for updates on my blood situation and to meet with a liver consultant. I did this every six months initially and then every year.
9. I did not tell my GP I had been giving blood. As soon as I found out I had Hepatitis C I immediately ceased donating. I regularly had appointments with doctors/consultants at the liver unit, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but was not given any medication at the time.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

10. I am not aware of contracting any other infections as a result of the Hepatitis C.

### **Section 4. Consent**

11. As I have outlined above, I was not asked for my consent in relation to any blood transfusion prior to being infected with Hepatitis C.
12. The subsequent treatment I have received, after it was discovered I had Hepatitis C, has all been consensual and I have understood the reasons for and any consequences of said treatments. An example of this has been the liver biopsies I have undergone.

### **Section 5. Impact**

13. I do not believe I have suffered with any psychological side effects, as a result of contracting hepatitis C. However, I have been physically impacted and suffer with depleted energy levels. Because of this, I was forced to reduce my working hours from full-time to part-time. I am a teacher.

14. The reduction in hours has had a financial impact on me. However, my husband was working full time.
15. I have not felt any stigma associated with the diagnosis of Hepatitis C.
16. The loss of energy has been detrimental to both my family life and relationships. I have been unable to carry out the usual day-to-day family activities i.e. around the house or socialising. I frequently have to lie down due to the fatigue.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

17. I have been extremely disappointed with the various appointments during the 1990's I have attended with consultants, in relation to having Hepatitis C. I am not on any treatment now because treatment I received during 2015 has ended.
18. I was never told about why or how the blood had become infected. The possibility of interferon treatment was discussed with me, however I was told that this type of treatment was inappropriate, and ineffective, due to my age.
19. I have not had any psychological support. I have never been offered any form of support service or information, bar the leaflets I was given. I have always felt the medical services avoided giving me treatment; as they were embarrassed of being responsible for giving people infected blood and blood products.
20. In the 1990's, the doctors had never informed or explained to me what symptoms to expect. When I tried to explain to them how I felt about the situation and the issues I had, there was no attempt to discuss it further with me. It was later in the 2000's I had a number of follow up appointments and biopsies.

21. I have undergone liver biopsies at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Liver Unit. Blood samples have been taken yearly. With the course of Research treatment I received in 2015 at The Q.E. Hospital my liver appears to be in a healthier state.

**Section 7. Financial Assistance**

22. In 2009, I received a sum of £20,000 from the Skipton Fund. Prior to this, I was never made aware of any financial support. They continued providing me with financial assistance on a quarterly basis and they have kept me informed about any developments about infected blood and any government initiatives.

23. The Skipton Fund contacted me. I have not encountered any difficulties with them.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-C  
Dated 17/04/19