

Witness Name: Shannon Anne Zofia Loder

Statement No: WITN1684001

Exhibit: 0

Dated: 12 April 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN WITNESS STATEMENT OF SHANNON ANNE ZOFIA LODER

I, Shannon Anne Zofia Loder will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Shannon Anne Zofia Loder. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1994 and I live at GRO-C London GRO-C. I am a trainee primary school teacher and will qualify this year.
2. This witness statement is made in relation to my late father, Charles Loder, (my father) who was born on the GRO-C 1965, and who sadly passed away on the 12th March 2009 as a result of contracting Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C (HCV), through contaminated blood products.
3. This witness statement has been prepared with the benefit of access to some of my father's medical records.

Section 2. How affected

4. My father was diagnosed with severe Haemophilia A at nine months old. He was admitted to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) in Glasgow where he had knee surgery which caused him to bleed severely. As a result Haemophilia was diagnosed.
5. My father suffered from spontaneous bleeds and was first treated at the Haemophilia & Thrombosis Centre at Glasgow Royal Infirmary (GRI) between 1966 and 1973. He was under Professor Hutchinson and Professor G. C. Arnell.
6. He moved to Luton in 1973, and he transferred to Luton and Dunstable University Hospital, he was treated there until 1979 and was treated by Dr D. S. Thompson.
7. Between 1979 and 1980, my father attended the Lord Mayor Treloar College and this is where he was mainly treated during that time. He was treated by Dr A. Aronstam.
8. When he returned to Glasgow in 1980, he administered Factor VIII at home. He remained in Glasgow until 1982.
9. In June 1982, he moved to Gibraltar, where he lived until December 1983. He had treatment at St Barnard's Hospital, where he was seen by Dr Maskill, under the care of Dr Fitzpatrick.
10. He then moved back to Glasgow; however, in February 1984 GRI asked Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) to undertake my father's care. He was treated by Dr GRO-D in March 1985.

11. In later years he was under the care of Dr Charles Hay at the MRI. He also received Factor VIII treatment at Blackpool Victoria Hospital (BVH) from May 1984 and was under the care of Dr Flanagan.
12. I understand my father was treated with frozen plasma; later with Cryoprecipitate (Cryo), Factor VIII concentrate and lastly with Factor VIII.
13. He was treated in the hospitals in the early years; however, in the later years he was taught how to self-administer the treatment so as he could treat himself at home.
14. I understand that neither my father, nor his parents (my grandparents) were ever informed about the potential risks of infection from the blood products he was treated with.
15. As a result of being treated with contaminated blood products my father contracted HIV and HCV.
16. He was told he had been diagnosed with HIV, in July 1985 when he was almost 20 years old by Dr [GRO-D] at MRI. I do not believe that he was given much information about the infection or how to manage or understand it at that time or later.
17. In 1993, my father was told at MRI that he had also been infected with HCV, he was just told about it.

Section 3. Other Infections

18. I believe my father was also exposed to Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD).

Section 4. Consent

19. To my knowledge I cannot say that my father was treated or tested without his consent.

Section 5. Impact

20. My parents knew about my father's infections long before I was born. I grew up being aware that he was ill; however, I never understood the extent of his illness.

21. I am a haemophilia carrier, so I was more aware of my father's haemophilia than my brother, Bradley, as I had everything explained to me in relation to the condition at the MRI, where my father was treated.

22. I often went to my father's appointments with him and when he was on home treatment I helped him to shake his Factor VIII bottles. I was told that I might pass it on to my children.

23. When we were younger, Bradley and I had a normal upbringing with two parents and then we didn't. Everything changed when our father started to become very unwell. This was probably around a year before he passed away. I was only 14 years old when my father died.

24. The Christmas before my father passed away and the last couple of weeks of his life were the worst time for us as a family. My father was very yellow because of his HCV, he was in and out of the hospital and my brother had to spend a lot of time with our grandparents. It was extremely distressing for me to see my father go downhill so rapidly.

25. I did have a few counselling sessions, which were meant to help me to deal with the situation; however, I found them to be rather brief and not very helpful. I am a

very emotional person and I still find it very hard to talk about what had happened to our family. I believe that if I had had intensive counselling it could have helped me cope better.

26. Swimming was my greatest passion, and I was a competitive swimmer until I was 19 at the second year of university. Two days after my father passed away I had a regional swimming competition. I recall that I came second and was expected to win, I finished the race and broke down in tears at end of the lane and had to be helped out of the water! People thought I had injured myself; through my tears I said my father would be disappointed in me. The loss of my father affected me greatly and I was not able to deal with it.

27. I do not believe that my education was affected; I tried to do the best I could.

28. I also find it very upsetting that my father missed out on my sports events and awards, my university experience and my graduation. I took part in Olympic trials, which I know that he would be very proud of; however, we were deprived of the chance to have him around for any of that.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

29. I am not aware of any difficulties that my father might have encountered accessing treatment, or whether there was any treatment available at the time that should have been made available to him.

30. As mentioned above, I did have some brief counselling, but I did not find it of much help.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

31. My father received disability living allowance as he was not able to maintain a stable job due to his poor health.

32. My parents had received monthly payments from the MacFarlane Trust, which my mother received for six months following my father's death.

33. My mother still receives some money for my brother, Bradley.

34. After my father passed away, my mother received a lump sum of £10,000 from the Skipton Fund.

35. I am not aware as to any obstacles or difficulties when it comes to the application process, as it was my father who applied to the funds and trusts.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

36. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

37. I do not wish to be called to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... GRO-C

Shannon Anne Zofia Loder

Dated: 12 April 2019