

Witness Name: Bradley Charles Loder

Statement No: WITN1685001

Exhibit: 0

Dated: ~~April~~ 2019
23rd May

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN WITNESS STATEMENT OF BRADLEY CHARLES LODER

I, Bradley Charles Loder will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Bradley Charles Loder. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1999 and I live at GRO-C. I am a full-time student, studying civil engineering at Loughborough University. I am just finishing my first year of a three-year degree.
2. This witness statement is made in relation to my late father, Charles Loder, (my dad) 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 dad's medical records.

Section 2. How affected

4. My dad 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 dad 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 dad 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 dad'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 Flannagan.
12. I understand my dad 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 dad, 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 dad contracted HIV and HCV.
16. He was told he had been diagnosed with HIV in July 1985 when he was almost 20 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 dad 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 dad was also exposed to Variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (CJD).

Section 4. Consent

19. To my knowledge I cannot say if my dad was treated or tested without his knowledge or consent or without being given adequate or full information or for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

20. My parents knew about my dad'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 was only young so I was not really aware of my dad's haemophilia, only that he could not play football with me or run around too much, as he might get a bleed and need to have an injection.

22. I often asked to help him to shake his Factor VIII bottles and I would watch on mesmerised.

23. When we were younger, Shannon (my sister) and I had a normal upbringing with two parents and then my dad was gone. I was only nine years old when my dad died.

24. I only have brief memories of my dad and I cannot actually remember much, or whatever I can remember is very blurry, as I was so young then. My main memory is not being able to run around with my dad and play.

25. However some of the most vivid memories of my dad that I have are of us on holiday together. For a few years in a row we went on holiday to Tenerife. We also spent Christmas there once.

26. I wish I had more memories with my dad.

27. The last few years of his life he was very ill, he was always at home, but I never really understood what was actually wrong with him.
28. I now know that my dad could not work. He would always tell me that he was going to meetings; I thought that it was for work, but I now understand that it was related to his infection.
29. I remember having to spend a lot of time with our grandparents. He went into hospital and we saw him a few times, then the day he died mum came home and tried to explain it to me. I thought that she was joking and he was hiding in house. I ran around looking for him and mum was in tears.
30. Shannon was a competitive swimmer and I had to sleep at my grandparents' house a couple of times a week, so my mum could take her to early morning training sessions as I could not stay in the house on my own.
31. Other days my sister took me to school and brought me home if she was not doing a training session, otherwise I went to my grandparents' to do homework and have tea until my mum collected me. Shannon was like a second parent to me; suddenly I had two mums, and we are all very close. My mum had to work full-time to pay for our house and bills.
32. I do not believe that my education was affected; I tried to do the best I could.
33. I also find it very upsetting that my dad has missed out so much including seeing me grow up and he will not see my university graduation or the son I have become.
34. I believe that not having my dad around affected me growing up, as I had no father figure. I had to learn a lot of things by myself, in doing so I have made a lot

of mistakes that I believe could have been avoided if I had had my dad's guidance. He could have taught me how to be a young man and how to act appropriately.

35. I believe that if my dad was around it would have made a lot of difference; perhaps I would have made better choices in life.

36. I now attend university and I believe that my dad would be proud of me. I do things in hope that if he was around he would be proud of my accomplishments and the man I have become.

37. After my father passed away I feel that we did not have much support at all. My mum was a single mother with two children. She worked very hard and she has struggled a lot. I believe that this has affected me, in particular I feel that there has been fewer opportunities for me not having my dad around.

38. Not having my dad around has been particularly difficult lately. My grandmother passed away last year and she was a prevalent figure in my life. I had spent a lot of time with my grandparents' at their house when my dad was poorly, so I have found her passing very difficult to cope with.

39. It is also difficult for me knowing that I did not get the chance to say a proper goodbye to my dad. I was too young to understand what was happening. I really wish I had the chance to do that; however, it was so sudden.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

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

41. I have never had any counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

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

43. I understand my parents received monthly payments from the MacFarlane Trust, which my mother received for six months following my dad's death.

44. I believe my mother still receives some money for me as a child payment and will do so until I am 21 as well as a small income top up payment.

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

46. I am not aware as to any obstacles or difficulties my dad encountered in the application process to the trusts and funds, he made the applications.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

47. 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.

48. I do wish to be called to give oral evidence, if I can assist the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... **GRO-C**

Bradley Charles Loder

Dated ~~April~~ 2019

23rd May