

Witness Name: Adam Wood

Statement No:WITN1728001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: February 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ADAM WOOD

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I, Adam Wood will say as follows:-

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is Adam Wood, DOB [GRO-C]1980 and I live at [GRO-C], Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, [GRO-C] with my wife and two children. I have been a bus driver for the past 11 years.
2. My father, Paul Alan Clinton, DOB [GRO-C]1957, died on [GRO-C]1992 after being infected with Hepatitis C and HIV through contaminated blood products.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

#### **Section 2. How Affected**

4. My dad suffered from haemophila and received treatment from the Bradford Royal Infirmary.

5. My parents split up when I was five years old and initially I would go and stay with Dad on weekends and during school holidays.
6. Shortly after my parents split up my mum moved us to Newcastle and my dad remained in Bradford. The last time I saw him was when I was eight years old and he died when I was 12.
7. As a result of my age and the lack of contact I had with my father and his family, I have very little information regarding his treatment and infection.
8. My father was infected with HIV and died in GRO-C 1992. The cause of death is listed on his death certificate as AIDS.
9. My father was also presumably infected with Hepatitis C as all haemophiliacs infected with HIV were assumed to be co-infected.

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

10. I am not aware of any other infections that my dad may have been infected with.

### **Section 4. Consent**

11. I do not have any information as to what testing my father consented to.
12. My mum was tested at the time but she was never told what they were testing her for.

### **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

13. When my dad passed away I was told that he had died of cancer.

14. I had always felt rejected by my father as I had no idea what had happened to him or what he was going through; all I knew as a child is that he stopped seeing me. When I was a teenager I cut up pictures that I found of us and lost all contact with my dad's side of the family.
15. After my dad's funeral my life pretty much fell apart. I went completely off the rails. I had been a pretty good student before but my grades and behaviour just fell apart.
16. My mum told me when I was around 15 years old how my dad really died, at which point my behaviour got even worse.
17. I tried to put it to the back of my mind and put it in a box to close it off. I wouldn't talk to anyone about it.
18. About four years ago I found my cousin on Facebook which is how we got back in touch. I then went to a family reunion about a year ago when I was told about the Panorama documentary.
19. After watching this documentary I was horrified. I went on the internet and found the Tainted Blood support group. The more I read, the more I realised I wasn't alone and that my father had been through a horrific experience.
20. When I look back at the way I was from the ages of 12-21, the impact on my life was devastating. Everything went wrong. I was very fortunate that I then met my wife who changed my life and helped me turn things around.
21. It is only in the last few years that I have resumed contact with my dad's side of the family. My dad's sister told me that he distanced himself from us when he knew that he had been infected with HIV as he didn't want me to be tarnished with the stigma of AIDS. He also didn't want us to see what he was going through.

22. My auntie also told me that shortly before he passed away, she drove him up to my school so he could see me for one last time before he died. She brought him to the school gates as he was too weak to drive himself. I had no idea at the time and I find it very difficult now to realise what he went through and adjust my view of him; he didn't abandon me as I believed for most of my formative years; he was simply trying to protect me.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

23. I have never been offered any form of counselling or support.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

24. I have not had any involvement with the various Trusts and Schemes.

25. I am not aware of any financial assistance that my father received.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

26. None.

#### **Anonymity**

27. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

28. I would give oral evidence to the Inquiry if they considered it would be helpful.

GRO-C

Signed...

Dated 27.02.2019