

Witness Name: June Campbell

Statement No.: WITN2673001

Exhibits: **NONE**

Dated: 6th December 2018

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JUNE CAMPBELL

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated the 6th December 2018.

I, June Campbell, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is June Campbell. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1949. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am William Campbell's sister. I am retired. I intend to speak about my brother's infection of hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together as a family until his death on the 4th February 1999.

Section 2. How Affected

2. William was my younger brother. He was infected from hepatitis C as a result of receiving a blood transfusion during a routine operation to remove a hernia. William lived with the belief that he would get better one day and receive a new liver. He lived with this hope right up until his death on the 4th February 1999.
3. William didn't have a prior condition, he had a transfusion. I don't know when he had this transfusion. This information will be in his medical records, which I am happy to recover for Thompsons Solicitors if they wish. What I can recall is that he went into hospital to have a hernia removed. He was in hospital for about 10 days. It was a standard, uneventful procedure.
4. William received a blood transfusion, I do not know how many litres of blood he received.
5. William was treated at Hairmyres hospital, Glasgow for the hernia. He was on a waiting list as well for a liver transplant. He was under the care of Hairmyres Hospital for his remaining days until he passed away in 1999.
6. I don't know the exact date that William had the hernia operation it was in the early 1990s. He died on 4th February 1999.
7. Of course I don't know details of William being infected other than he received this blood transfusion during an operation when he was having his hernia removed. I cannot recall the time period when he told me he had been infected with hepatitis C, I just remember at some point I became aware that he was infected with hepatitis C, probably around the middle of the 1990s.
8. I don't know what information William was given about the infection

and I don't know who provided this information.

9. I don't believe that adequate information was provided to William. I'm not aware of the details however in our conversations with him, he clearly didn't understand the impact of hepatitis C, he didn't appreciate at the time, how life-threatening it was, he thought he would get a liver transplant and he would be fine.
10. If the doctors had known about his infection, they should have provided William with a conversation about the risk of infection and when he found out he was infected they should have told him. However, I'm not aware that he was told. When he was admitted to hospital there were no issues related to the hernia it was a fairly uneventful operation.
11. I don't have any views about how the results of the tests were communicated to William as I'm unaware of this conversation.
12. I don't know what information was given to William about the risks of others being infected as a result of the infection.

Section 3. Other Infections

13. I am unaware of any other infections related to the hepatitis C that William may suffered with as a result of the transfusion. He never discussed anything with me about this.

Section 4. Consent

14. I do believe he was given blood without his consent, obviously when you receive blood in an operation you are not aware of what is going on. He would have probably signed a form before the operation, but this is effectively like signing a blank cheque. He has signed this form and he doesn't know what they're going to be doing. Nobody ever

discussed with him afterwards that they had to do a transfusion as far as I am aware. I don't think he was tested for hepatitis C then. I think it was only later on when there were investigations being done on William's declining health and at some point, somehow he has been told he has been infected with hepatitis C.

15. I am unsure if he's been tested or treated without his consent. They clearly took blood from him and I'm not sure if they had told him they were testing for hepatitis C. They were always taking blood from him during his hospital visits, that is a standard thing.
16. Yes he didn't know he was walking about with the infection. He didn't know he had received infected blood. He thought it was just normal.
17. I am unsure if he was tested for the purposes of research, they took a lot of blood from him, that is what I'm aware of so he may have been.

Section 5. Impact

18. There was a very big impact on my family in relation to William's infection. Especially my mother, she was living with the fact he was really ill. He was up and down to the hospital all the time. He was the youngest child and it took a lot out of him and a lot out of her. Physically, William would swell up, he was blown up like a balloon, he had no quality-of-life. He was at home all the time, he was on a transplant list and he was told that once he had a liver transplant he would get better. He wasn't bedridden, he just wasn't able to go out all the time. Before he became too ill, he had liked going bowling all the time, but afterwards he couldn't walk for any period of time. William was scared about the long-term effects on what could happen however he brightened up when he learned that he could get a liver transplant and he thought that he was going to be okay.
19. I'm not aware of any other medical complications or conditions

resulting from the liver infection. All I know there is that his liver was in a very poor condition because he had hepatitis C and it was so poor that he required a liver transplant.

20. William started to lose the pigmentation in his skin, it is known as vitiligo. He was incredibly swollen, he was admitted to Hairmyres Hospital originally and he became so swollen that he asked me to go to the shops and buy him the biggest pair of boxer shorts possible, as none of his clothes would fit him anymore and he was being robbed of his dignity. Eventually Hairmyres Hospital couldn't cope with him anymore so they transferred him to the Royal infirmary Glasgow. He slipped into a coma shortly after he was transferred there and his body experienced renal failure. They couldn't get the liver in time and his body became so poorly that even if a liver had become available it would not have been suitable for him in the end. I recall he was on dialysis during this time to clean his blood while he was waiting for the transplant.
21. William never had any treatment. He was never offered any treatment. He didn't like going to the hospital because he felt dirty. He felt like people were judging him for something that was no fault of his own. It appeared to be that people would associate hepatitis C with being something that a drug user would get infected with.
22. I am not aware of any difficulties or obstacles that William had in accessing treatment because I don't believe he was ever offered any treatment, I have no knowledge of this.
23. William was never offered any treatment so if he had been offered treatment for hepatitis C this could have maybe helped him.
24. This question is not applicable as he did not receive any treatment.
25. I don't know if it affected treatment for the dentist to be honest. I don't

think that William went to the dentist. I remember that a nurse was to put cream on him to ease his skin troubles from the vitiligo and the nurse did not want to put the cream on him when he was admitted to hospital. I told the nurse to give me the cream and I would do it. The nurse was called nurse [GRO-D] I think William found this incredibly embarrassing. Nurse [GRO-D] threw the cream at me and said "You do it" and left us. This made me very angry, William was not properly supported by the Hospital and he was left with only family support really.

26. Everything in your life is affected, my mum, Mary Campbell was affected most of all. Your life stops because you have to look after him. I had to go to hospital every day between my shifts at work to make sure everything was okay. There was a constant fear that we could lose him. Mum passed away a year and a half after he did. She was broken hearted with what happened to William. After he was infected with hepatitis C and some point in the 1990's, William moved back home with my mum. He was never diagnosed with depression; however, this may be because we are a family that tend to keep things to ourselves. We just accept what has happened and move on. His view was there is nothing that the doctors can do for me and he just had to keep going. Usually William would just look at the day in front of him and no further.
27. I felt sorry for William, he had a very, very hard time and had to keep going. I was in a full-time job, working nightshift. I don't wish to discuss my occupation it's not important for the Inquiry. I would run up to the hospital 2 or 3 times a day. This meant I had less sleep but I was ok otherwise. I don't need to say what my occupation was.
28. There was definitely a stigma around the diagnosis, but we did not have a terrible reaction compared to what others experienced. Most people assumed that he was on drugs it was stupid people really, the reaction was just ignorant. I did find he went into himself though. In

that sense he lost friends because he lost touch with everyone. He did keep some good friends though. At one point, he was jumped one evening and someone hit him in the head. They called him dirty because he was known to have hepatitis C. He had to attend hospital to have received stitches. He did know who this person was but he kept this to himself.

29. What ultimately happened to William devastated our family. He was so positive, he kept saying "*I'm going to get that transplant*" and then just like that the doctors said no, there was nothing they could do. After William died, Mum just went downhill, I am sure she was extremely distressed and devastated. She died a year and a half later after William.
30. William worked as a crane driver. He was made redundant at one point but I don't know when, possibly in the early 1990's. After that he didn't work and received benefits.
31. I worked nightshift. There wasn't any direct impact on my work. I would just come and see William in the hospital in the morning and get less sleep than what I needed. My occupation is not important for this statement.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

32. Hairmyres hospital didn't bother with William. They presumed he was dirty and a drug addict, he didn't get the treatment he deserved. They didn't pay attention to the signs that his liver was failing and they didn't refer him to Glasgow Royal infirmary until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning which was too late. They weren't coping with him and they should have referred him earlier. This was the same as his care that he had had with them previously. They didn't really do much for him. When he went into the Royal Infirmary Glasgow, he was delirious, I went back the next day and he was unconscious, where he then

slipped into a coma. He never recovered. He was having continual fits at this time and his brain was beginning to swell, of course there was nowhere for his brain to go and there wasn't anything they could do for him. When he died, he had a lot of toxic chemicals in his body. He was put straight into a body bag and he was labelled 'toxic' on the body bag. We were not allowed to see his body or have any access to him. This was incredibly distressing for Mum. The couple that ran the funeral parlour were neighbours of my mums. She noticed that afterwards they treated her differently and acted differently. There was a lot of whispers. When his body was sent to the funeral parlour it was sent with the label toxic on the body bag still, this was fairly upsetting and embarrassing.

33. No psychological support has ever been made available to my mother or William or I. I think someone should have at least spoken to my mum and William and explained more about what the illness involved and practical things that could happen. William was on the transplant list and he was happy with this but then the bubble was just burst. It would have helped the family if someone from the hospital had spoken to us and explained what was going on and why he couldn't get a transplant. It was very upsetting for her and nobody was providing us with the information.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

34. I don't know about financial assistance and I didn't know anything was available. I don't believe this was ever made available to William.
35. This question is not applicable as William, he did not apply to any fund as he died many years ago.
36. This question is not applicable.
37. This question is not applicable.

38. This question is not applicable.

39. I have no comments about the various trusts and funds as we have experience with this.

Section 8. Other Issues

40. I have no other documents or information to provide to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

22ND JANUARY 2019