

Witness Name: Michael George Stead

Statement No: WITN2721001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 1 February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MICHAEL GEORGE STEAD

I, Michael George Stead will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. I live at GRO-C. I was born on GRO-C 1954. I married Pamela on 29 May 1976 and we had two children, James, born on 24 August 1982 and Gemma, born on 7 July 1984. Gemma is GRO-C. Pamela died on 6 October 1988. I married my second wife, Angela, in June 1990 and have a stepson, Robert, who is now 37.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to Pamela's full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

3. I make this statement because Pamela was given infected blood when she underwent a blood transfusion at Stone Park Maternity Hospital, Beckenham, in 1982. Pamela started haemorrhaging while giving birth to James, and was given a blood transfusion. We were not aware at that time that the blood was infected. In 1984, Pamela gave birth to Gemma. The birth was normal but Gemma GRO-C. In

January 1988, Pamela had a cold. She then had cold after cold in February and March 1988, and became very run down. By June 1988, she was coughing badly and was waking at night feeling breathless. She saw various doctors, but they were unable to find anything wrong with her. She was prescribed Valium. She continued to deteriorate. In August 1988, she was admitted to the Sloane Hospital in Bromley, and was diagnosed with pulmonary sarcoidosis. She was transferred to the Brook Hospital in Greenwich. She saw Dr Stokes, a chest expert, and was diagnosed with fibrosis of the lungs. She was advised to have a heart and lung transplant. At the end of September 1988, Dr Stokes called me into his office and informed me that Pamela had HIV and that the children and I were at risk. I immediately underwent a test. I was not infected.

GRO-C

GRO-C

The details of Pamela's infection are as follows:

- a. Pamela had HIV.
 - b. She was infected with HIV, when she underwent a blood transfusion in 1982.
 - c. She underwent the blood transfusion at Stone Park Hospital in Beckenham. This has since closed down.
 - d. She was infected on 24 August 1982.
4. Pamela was infected by a blood transfusion on 24 August 1982.
 5. Pamela was not given any advice about the risk of being infected because she was undergoing emergency treatment at the time, to save the life of herself and her baby.
 6. Pamela was infected with HIV.
 7. Pamela never knew that she had HIV.

- a. The information that Pamela had HIV was given to me by Dr Stokes in 1988, as I have described above. He asked me if Pamela had ever had a blood transfusion and I explained that she had.
- b. I was given adequate information to understand what had happened to Pamela, but I was in shock at the time.
- c. Pamela was never tested for HIV. There was little expectation in those days that a female heterosexual would be infected with HIV. When she underwent blood tests, they did not test her for this. It only came to light 10 days before she died.
- d. Not applicable.
- e. Dr Stokes was very concerned about me and the children. I was tested immediately and the children were tested subsequently. We were all negative for HIV.

Section 3. Other infections

- 8. Pamela did not receive any infection other than HIV, to my knowledge.

Section 4. Consent

- a. Pamela was treated without her knowledge.
- b. Pamela was treated without her consent.
- c. Not applicable.
- d. I do not believe that Pamela's treatment was for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

10.

- a. When Pamela went into hospital in 1988, she was ventilated and sedated and never knew that she had HIV.
- b. Pamela developed AIDS and died from this.
- c. Pamela deteriorated rapidly when she went into hospital. She died 10 days after her admission.
- d. I cannot say what treatment Pamela received for AIDS, but it was not possible to save her life.
- e. There was no difficulty accessing medical treatment once Pamela had been admitted to hospital.
- f. I cannot say what treatments might have been given to her to save her life.
- g. Pamela died.
- h. Not applicable.

11. Pamela never knew that she had HIV.

12. I have suffered from severe anxiety as a result of what happened to Pamela, and I have undergone private psychiatrist treatment, including cognitive behavioural therapy. I have repeatedly been tested for HIV, and have always been negative. I have also had numerous tests for conditions which have turned out to be benign. I have become a hypochondriac. I only told close family and a couple of friends what happened to Pamela. I did not tell James until he was 16, and I have never told Gemma, as GRO-C. When Pamela died, she was wrapped in bandages to stop any infection spreading. I had to tell friends that they could not see her, which was difficult for them.

13. Our GP told our friends to stay away from us after Pamela died. There was a stigma attached to having HIV/AIDS at that time.

14. My children have been very seriously affected by what happened to their mother. As a result of Pamela's infection, Gemma was born [GRO-C]

[GRO-C]

[GRO-C]

[GRO-C]. James is now 36

and has [GRO-C]. He is feckless and profligate

and has been in [GRO-C]. He is a carpenter/joiner by trade and has

two children by different mothers. He lost his own mother at an early age and

this has severely affected him. He has never cried about his mother.

15.

a. Pamela's education and ability to work were not impacted at all, because she was not infected with HIV until 1982, by which time she had given up work to have James.

b. My own life has been affected in the way described at paragraph 12. After Pamela died, I received help from the Eileen Trust, who provided furniture, holidays and respite care. I have my own small plumbing business, which my wife Angela runs. It went into liquidation 4 years ago, but we were able to start up again. I am now 64 and semi-retired, but we still have a [GRO-C]

[GRO-C]

[GRO-C].

Section 6 Treatment/Care/Support

16. Pamela did not face difficulties obtaining care once the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS had been made.

17. It was not possible for Pamela to have counselling, but I have undergone private

psychiatric treatment myself. I had about 8 sessions of CBT 20 years ago.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

18.I received help from the Eileen Trust, but this ceased 15 years ago. My financial circumstances are as set out in paragraph 15.b above.

Section 8. Other Issues

19.I was with Pamela when she died. She was on various machines, and they told me to talk to her, as she would be able to hear me to the very end. I was there when they turned the machines off. She was 32 and I was 34. I was left with two young children, a son aged 6 and a GRO-C daughter aged 4. After Pamela's death, I consulted solicitors and received an ex-gratia payment of around £61,000 for myself and the children. This was in around 1991. The children's money was put into trust. I had to sign a disclaimer to the effect that I would not bring any further claims relating to Pam's death.

Anonymity

20.I do not wish to remain anonymous.

21.I do wish to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... GRO-C

Michael Stead

Dated..... 1/2/2019