

Witness Name: Pamela Pennycook

Statement No.: WITN2242003

Exhibits:

Dated: 4 July 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PAMELA PENNYCOOK

I provide this further statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th November 2018 and to an additional request from the Inquiry as detailed below.

I, Pamela Pennycook, will say as follows: -

1. My name is Pamela Pennycook. My date of birth and address are known to the Inquiry. I have provided a written statement to the Inquiry, dated 23 February 2019. I am providing this further written statement in order to add some further evidence to my previous statement which relates to an additional matter which has been raised with me by the

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

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Inquiry. I have been asked to clarify, as far as I am able, certain references in my medical records that might suggest my infection with Hepatitis C was not through transfusion but through alternative means of infection. I respond to this request as follows:

2. My attention has been drawn by the Inquiry to certain entries in my medical records which tend to suggest that I might have been infected with Hepatitis C as a result of a relationship I had with a partner as opposed to as a result of the blood transfusion which I had in 1980. I have been shown a handwritten entry in my GP records dated 24 November 2005 which states *"Repeat LFTs 7/12 + do hep screen incl hep C (ex partner has it)"*. To be clear I was not aware at that time that I was being tested for Hepatitis C. The testing was done as far as I was aware in the context of my diagnosis of osteoporosis, as I have explained in my first statement at paragraph 3. I have been shown a further handwritten entry in my GP records dated 22 December 2005 which states *"Hep C discussed – 2 poss causes Tx 84 partner 2000"*. The handwritten entry of 22 December 2005 is Dr Cameron's note of the meeting I have discussed at paragraph 4 of my first statement. For the sake of clarity, Dr Cameron has made an error in this note relating to the treatment which was discussed at that time as that was in 1980 and not 1984, as detailed in my first statement at paragraph 2.
3. I have also been shown a letter dated 28 December 2005. This is a letter in which my GP is referring me to the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. In that letter it states that *"in asking her possible risk factors it came up that she had a [word or words obscured] who she had subsequently discovered to be hep C positive about 4 years ago"*. The letter goes on to say *"Apart from this partner she also had transfusions in the mid 80s when*

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she had spinal operations and I suppose it could be either of these sources whereby she became infected". I have also been shown a letter back from Nurse Sara Lamond at the regional infectious disease unit at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh dated 10 February 2006 which states that "Pamela had a blood transfusion in the early 80s and she also has an [word or words obscured] who has Hepatitis C – so she is unsure which route of transmission she may have been infected by".

4. All of these entries come from around the time when I found out about my Hepatitis C infection, as set out in my first statement. I was aware at the time of these entries that it was possible to contract Hepatitis C from having tattoos. I had a partner in around 2000/2001 who had tattoos and therefore I thought that it was possible that I might have become infected by him. As a result of the conversation with my GP Dr Cameron as set out in my first statement at paragraph 4, I contacted this person to tell him that I had been diagnosed with Hepatitis C and that he might like to get tested. Some time after February 2006 he contacted me to tell me that he had been tested and that he was Hepatitis C negative. He cannot therefore have been the route of my infection. To the extent that these entries suggest that I was aware that that person had been infected with Hepatitis C, that is inaccurate. I was aware that as a result of him having tattoos there was a risk that he was infected with Hepatitis C. I have never claimed that I was aware that he was infected with Hepatitis C. He is not so infected, as far as I aware aware.

5. I understand in any event that it is unlikely that a person could become infected with Hepatitis C as a result of sexual transmission and that I am more likely to have been infected as a result of the blood transfusion which I received in 1980. I am certain that I was infected by that transfusion.

Signed

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

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4/7/19

Signed

Penny Cook

Dated

4/7/19