

Witness Name: P BOWERS

Statement No: WITN1801001

Exhibits:0

Dated: May 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PETER BOWERS

I, PETER BOWERS will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Peter Bowers. I was born on the GRO-C 1944. My address is GRO-C
GRO-C. I am a retiree and I live on my own. I previously used to work as a builder and I have two grown up children.
2. I make this statement in relation to my late mother Vera Gertrude Bowers, (D.O.B GRO-C 915) who was infected with Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.
3. **This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late mother'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 infected

1. My mother had an operation for bowel cancer on the 18th October 1978. I understand the procedure back then was very difficult and during the operation she required a blood transfusion.
2. The operation took place at West Middlesex University Hospital. I do not know the names of any consultants or doctors that she saw at the time.
3. I am not sure if my mother knew she would be receiving a blood transfusion prior to her surgery. I do not believe my mother was told that receiving a blood transfusion carried any risks.
4. My mother was infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of receiving contaminated blood products and died on the GRO-C aged 75.
5. I don't know if my mother knew she had HCV and I am not sure if she was offered any treatment or any medication.
6. I can't really recall much from the time of my mother's death as it was so long ago and I don't remember her actually going into hospital. She must have fallen ill at some point and all I can really remember is waiting at the hospital.
7. I didn't even know she was infected with HCV and I wasn't told anything about it at the time of her death. I do remember a consultant asked my mother if she had ever slept with a sailor which seemed like a very peculiar question.
8. My mother's death certificate refers to auto immune Hepatitis B as the cause of her death a direct cause of having been infected with contaminated blood.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. My mother didn't have any further infections that I am aware of.

Section 4. Consent

10. I am not sure if my mother was treated or tested without her knowledge as we were never told anything.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. I'm not aware if my mother ever knew she had HCV and she never mentioned it to me. If she was aware knowing my mother she would have just relied on the doctor's advice.

12. In regards to the effect that losing my mother has had on my family it has been devastating. It was all obviously very upsetting and has never really been spoken about it which I suppose is due to the trauma it caused. We are a very close family.

13. My children were very young when my mother passed and saw my mother on a regular basis because she helped us with childcare.

14. I don't think that my work has been affected. I just had to get on with it all.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. My mother had no difficulty in receiving treatment to my knowledge.

16. I did not get any counselling or psychological help in relation to my mother's infection. I believe it would have been helpful to help me deal with everything. However it was never offered.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

17. As far as I am aware my mother didn't receive any financial support.

18. I have never been offered any financial support.

Section 8. Other Issues

19. I really want to know what happened and how this whole scandal came about. The whole situation makes me feel very angry. It could have all been avoided but so many people have lost their lives for no reason.

20. I feel very sad when I think about it all. My mum could potentially still have been here. My whole family has lost a very important figure as a result of this scandal.


Anonymity

21. I do not wish to be anonymous.

22. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed...  ...
Dated... 16/6/19 ...