

Witness Name: Alison Mackay

Statement No: WITN1359001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ALISON MACKAY

I, Alison Mackay will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Alison Mackay, DOB GRO-C 1963 and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C Hampshire, GRO-C
2. My father, Christopher Hayward James, died in 2008 after being infected with Hepatitis C through contaminated blood products.
3. My mother, Marjorie James, has also provided a statement to the Inquiry which provides further information as to how my father became infected. This statement can be found at **WITN1304001**.
4. 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

5. My father suffered from mild haemophilia A for which he rarely required treatment.
6. He was only given Factor VIII imported from the USA on two occasions; once in 1981 for a knee injury and once in 1984 for a tooth extraction.
7. He wasn't told that he had been infected with Hepatitis C until 1992; eight years after he first received Factor VIII.
8. More information regarding how my dad was infected can be seen in my mother's statement.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I am not aware of any other infections that Dad was exposed to.

Section 4. Consent

10. I know that dad was called for testing with 'all the haemophiliacs' to be tested for something, although he was not aware ahead of time what the group testing was about.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. I used to work in the same business as my dad in HR and there was a noticeable difference in his behaviour and performance after he had become infected but before we were aware of his condition. There were no formal interventions, but it was clear that he was not able to perform as well as he previously had.
12. Nevertheless, when we found out that Dad had been infected with Hepatitis C and was going to die from this infection, it came as a huge shock.

13. I supported my mum with Dad's care whenever I could. On one occasion, I remember having to miss my son's birthday party to get to the hospital for my dad.
14. I had to be the strong one to support my mum as she had no one else to care for her; my brother was abroad at the time and she was not offered any support from the hospital. In turn, my husband was having to care for our three children and miss days at work, so it had an effect on him too.
15. There were many times I had to rush to the hospital thinking I had to say goodbye to my dad, as he was so poorly for the last nine years of his life.
16. When my dad was ill, I had three young boys who couldn't understand why their grandpa couldn't talk to them when they visited. They were too young to comprehend everything that was going on. My father was not able to develop a relationship with his grandchildren, and they missed out on having a grandfather as they grew up.
17. We didn't necessarily keep my dad's infection a secret as there wasn't the same stigma attached to Hepatitis C as there was with AIDS.
18. My sons were fourteen, ten and six when their grandfather died. They therefore never really got the chance to know him when he was well. They never got to learn from him or experience what an intelligent, loving man he was.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

19. There was no care or support offered to us.
20. The only support we have received is from The Fatherless Generation, a support group set up by others who have lost parents to this tragedy.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

21. My dad received the Stage One and Stage Two payments from the Skipton Fund.

22. After he passed away, my mum received a £25,000 widow payment in 2011 from Skipton and then an additional £10,000 in 2017.

Section 8. Other Issues

23. I feel that children who have lost their parents are not getting the same level of support that widows receive, both financially and in terms of counselling and emotional support.

Anonymity

24. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

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

Statement of Truth

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

Signed...

GRO-C

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Dated

31.1.19