

Witness Name: Carly Jane Bayford

Statement No: WITN4178001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: May 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CARLY JANE BAYFORD

I, Carly Jane Bayford, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Carly Jane Bayford. I was born on **GRO-C** 1990 and I live at **GRO-C** **GRO-C**, Bedfordshire **GRO-C**.
2. My father, Keith Robert Francis (born on **GRO-C** 1959), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He died on 31st December 2014, aged 55, after taking his own life.
3. My sister has also provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry (WITN4179001).
4. **This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.**

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father had mild to moderate Haemophilia A. He very rarely needed Factor VIII (FVIII) treatment. I understand that he was treated through the years at the Croydon University Hospital (formerly known as Mayday Hospital) and at the Kings College Hospital.
6. My father was one of five brothers and three sisters. My father and two of his brothers had haemophilia. Both brothers were infected with viruses through contaminated blood products. My Uncle Derek (infected with HIV) died in November 1996 after developing AIDS. My Uncle Jeremy (infected with HCV) died a year or two before my father lost his own life after falling off his bicycle..
7. I do not know much about the manner in which my father was told that he had HCV. My parents split up when I was young and I lived with my mother until my early twenties when my younger brother and I went to live with my father for a period of time shortly before he died. My parents got on well. They had a healthy respect for each other. My father was profoundly affected by the death of his brothers and by his own HCV infection and poor health. He really suffered mentally. I remember him telling me about the HCV infection during my childhood in a deflated, deadpan, matter of fact way. The weight of the huge psychological burden of coping with having HCV sat heavily on his shoulders through his life and may have contributed to factors, leading him to end it.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I do not believe that my father was infected with anything other than HCV.

Section 4. Consent

9. I do not know whether or not my father was treated and tested without consent.

Section 5. Impact

10. My father's physical health took a real downturn when he had a six month course of Interferon and Ribavirin treatment. I was in my late teens/early twenties. My father thought that the treatment would make him better. Not only was it unsuccessful, it was a horrible treatment. He had flu-like symptoms such as muscle aches, headaches and a high temperature (fever); chronic fatigue; loss of appetite; nausea and sickness. He had to endure severe abdominal pain and developed a bloated stomach and jaundice.
11. My father hit rock bottom from there. The mental effect was even worse for him than the horrible physical effects. HCV was an awful disease and when the clearing treatment failed; my father had no control whatsoever over what was in front of him.
12. I was living with my father when he died as was my younger (half) brother. My younger brother was just 18 years old and I was 24 years old. I was the one who found my father and his death affected me massively for a long time. I was working for a highway maintenance company. It was my first job out of University. I took time off work and then found it very difficult to return although people were lovely and meant well. It was a very tough time but you just learn how to carry these things.
13. Our home life was turned upside down. Given his young age, my brother became quite dependent upon me. He did not cope well with my father's death at all. Between the three of us (my older sister, me and our younger half-brother) he struggled the most. I found myself having to become the responsible adult. I had to find the money (£5,000) for a deposit for me and my brother to be able to rent somewhere together. With hindsight I could have better kept that money to try to get on to the property ladder. I still rent (with my husband) to this day. Within six months of my father's death, my

brother had a serious motorbike accident and nearly lost his leg. We couldn't keep up the rent after the accident and my brother went to live with his own mother in GRO-C.

14. My sister and I recently married (within a year of each other). It was extremely tough that my father was missing at our weddings.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. My father was very hopeful that the HCV clearing treatment was going to make him better. It did not. The HCV clearing treatment made my father a lot worse and I do not think he thought that it was worth it afterwards.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

16. I do not know about any financial assistance from any of the Trusts and Funds.

Anonymity

17. I do not want to apply for anonymity.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: GRO-C

Dated: 20th June 2020