

Witness Name: LEE FLETCHER

Statement No: WITN4547001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: APRIL 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LEE FLETCHER

I, Lee Fletcher, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Lee Fletcher. I was born on GRO-C 1991 and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C West Midlands GRO-C
2. My father, Craig Christopher Fletcher (born on GRO-C 1971), was infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) through contaminated blood products. He died having developed Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and died at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton in GRO-C 1994, aged 22.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.
4. My brother, Nico Fletcher, has also provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry (WITN4548001).

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father was one of two sons. He and his brother, Nicholas, had Haemophilia A. They were treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate. I am uncertain as to the Haemophilia Centre responsible for my father's care. Given the GRO-C locality, it may have been the Birmingham Haemophilia Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. My paternal grandfather administered the FVIII concentrate to my father and my Uncle Nicholas at home.
6. My grandfather told me that a Social Worker knocked on his door and informed him that his children had HIV. In short, he received a knock at the door and was told that his children would die. My Uncle Nicholas was just 17 years old when he died.
7. I do not believe that my father and/or his parents were pre-warned of the risk of infection through FVIII concentrate. The death of two sons had a terrible effect on my grandfather. On one occasion, he even GRO-C He went quiet and would shut down when I spoke about my father, but I do know that he blamed himself for administering the FVIII concentrate to his two sons. He said 'I pumped that shit into my kids'.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I do not know whether or not my father was infected with anything other than HIV.

Section 4. Consent

9. I am unable to comment on the issue of consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

10. My mum and dad were young when they met and became parents. My mother already had my older sister from a previous relationship. I was born on [GRO-C] 1991. My brother, Nico, was born on [GRO-C] 1992. Our parents married in December 1993 just before my father died in January 1994. I was just three years old.

11. My friends and cousins had fathers and had great relationships with both parents. I spent my entire childhood wondering about my dad. My mother never got over the loss of my father. She [GRO-C]
[GRO-C]

12. When we were young, our mother told us that it was cancer that had killed my father. Without me knowing why, we were ostracised by the people in our local community. The news that my father had died from AIDS spread through the grapevine. Out of ignorance my father was thought to have been gay or a drug addict. Because of the associated stigma, the children in our street were reluctant to play with us. We found out that my father had died from AIDS in our early teens.

13. My mother described my father as a very quiet, timid and loving man. He was a good husband to her. She was widowed at the age of 23 with three young children and never got over it. She [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] My mother never did a day's work. We suffered financially and were dependent upon benefits.

14. I would like answers as to why this was allowed to happen to my father and our family.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. We were never offered any counselling or support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

16. I believe my mother to have received some support from the MacFarlane Trust.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

17. I do not seek anonymity and understand that my Statement will be published by the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed. GRO-C

Dated... 28/04/2021.....