

Witness Name: DAVID FARRY

Statement No: WITN4551001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: SEPTEMBER 2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID FARRY

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I, David Farry, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is David Farry. I was born on GRO-C 1962 and I live at GRO-C  
GRO-C County Durham GRO-C
2. My father, John Farry (born on GRO-C 1933), was infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) through contaminated blood products. My father contracted PCP Pneumonia and died on 3rd November 1985, aged 52.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.

#### Section 2. How infected

4. My father had severe Haemophilia A. He was treated at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle under the care of Dr Peter Jones. My father was

treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate. His bleeds were severe and he had a lot of treatment at hospital and at home. I remember having to help my father steer the car to the hospital before I was old enough to drive because of a bleed in his arm. He had a lot of bleeds in his knee joints and had to have one of his legs fused as a result.

5. My father's cousin, [GRO-C] also had haemophilia. We did not see [GRO-C] very often but I remember he and my father talking about FVIII concentrate together. It was thought to be a great thing for haemophiliacs, a 'happy ever after' treatment but I remember [GRO-C] saying he had stopped having it as he had heard about problems with the treatment in the USA.
6. I do not remember much about the circumstances in which my father was told that he had HIV. I have blanked a lot of the detail of that time from my memory as a coping mechanism. I remember that my mother, my younger brother and I also had to go to the doctor to be tested for HIV. I think my father was told that he had HIV some time towards the end of 1984 as he lived with the knowledge that he had HIV for about a year before he died.
7. I do not believe that my father was pre-warned of the risk of infection before being treated with FVIII concentrate. I accompanied my father to and from hospital (a journey from our home of approximately 30 miles) that many times that I would know the way there blindfold. I met Dr Jones on several occasions. Dr Jones was held in very high regard by my parents. My father trusted him implicitly. He was a God like figure. My father did a lot in support of the Haemophilia Centre at the RVI to include organising a charity football match to raise funds.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

8. I do not know whether or not my father was infected with anything other than HIV but he may have been infected with NANB Hepatitis.

#### **Section 4. Consent**

9. I am unable to say whether or not my father was treated or tested without consent.

#### **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

10. My dad worked as a coil winder in the electrical industry. We lived in a small village in the North East with colliery workers as neighbours. Everyone knew everyone in the community and everyone knew that my dad had haemophilia. HIV/AIDS was in the news all the time. It was associated with being gay and to be gay was not acceptable.
11. My dad was a quiet man. He took things in his stride. We were very close and we did everything together. I was a good footballer and played at County and District level. My dad was very proud of my football success. He would drive me to all the games and he would pick up my friends on the way.
12. After finding out that my dad had HIV everything changed over night. Word got out that my father had HIV. Our house was attacked and paint daubed on the front door. It was really traumatic. I was questioned and barracked by people we knew. Slurs and homophobic abuse were shouted at me in public from across the street. My reaction was to withdraw from everyone and hide myself away. It was harrowing.
13. My dad didn't really talk about it very much. It was his way of trying to protect us. He was constantly tired and was always in and out of hospital with opportunistic infections. He became thinner and weaker. He was no longer able to work and that had a big impact on our finances. My mum worked as a nurse and had to take time off so she could take my dad to the hospital.

14. I was working as an apprentice bricklayer and doing well before dad was diagnosed with HIV. After dad was diagnosed with HIV I couldn't concentrate at work. I stopped playing the football I loved. Dad was unable to come with me and I didn't want to play anymore. I turned to alcohol and left my job. I didn't fully realise it at the time but I had descended into a great depression and I now believe I had PTSD. I have suffered greatly as the impact of my father's death lasted for decades. As stated, much of my memory has been blanked out. I moved away and have lived in a variety of locations in the country. I have never been able to settle very long in one place or hold down a regular job. I always felt agitated and ready to shoot off here and there. I married and my marriage failed, ending in divorce although I have two wonderful children aged 20 and 19. I feel that I have missed out on doing all the usual things that other people do with their fathers, like just going to the pub together. I still haven't come to terms with what happened to my dad. It is only in the last six months that I have been able to talk about it.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

15. I was never offered any counselling or support. I have recently spoken to my GP about getting some help to talk about my feelings but every time I try I get too emotional to go through with it.

16. I don't believe any psychological support or counselling was offered to our family.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

17. My mum received a widow's payout from one of the Trusts and Funds but I am unclear about the details. I believe the payment contributed to the purchase of a static caravan in Whitley Bay. My dad always liked it there.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

19. I am not seeking anonymity and I understand that this Statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed:

**GRO-C**

Dated.....

30-09-2020