

Witness Name: SHANNON SARAH ANN GREER

Statement No: WITN5233001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: November 2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

---

### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SHANNON SARAH ANN GREER

---

I, Shannon Sarah Ann Greer, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Shannon Sarah Ann Greer. I was born on GRO-C 2000 and I live at GRO-C.
2. My father, Terence James Lee Greer (born on GRO-C 1968), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He died on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2006, aged 38.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

4. My father (Dad) had severe Haemophilia A. He was treated with Cryoprecipitate initially and then Factor VIII (FVIII) Concentrate. He was under the care of Dr Brian Colvin at the Haemophilia Centre at the Royal London Hospital.
5. I was just 6 years old when my father died. I have only relatively recently (2017) learned that he was infected with HIV (and HCV) and that he died after developing full blown AIDS. Dad was infected with HIV at aged 12. He found out about it when he was 18 years old.
6. My parents met at a pub in London where my mother (Mum) worked. She doesn't like to talk about Dad as it upsets her too much. She did however tell me that they were left to cope without the information they needed to understand and manage the infection(s). To have to deal with all the uncertainty of my father being infected with HCV in addition to him having HIV broke them up. They were pretty much guessing at what they should or shouldn't do to stay safe. The stress and strain that they were under when Mum fell pregnant with me resulted in them splitting up when I was three months old. Dad was very depressed. Mum had to have lots of tests and was given tablets she then had to take.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

7. I do not think my father was infected with anything other than HIV and HCV.

## **Section 4. Consent.**

8. I am unable to comment on the issue of consent to treatment and testing.

## **Section 5. Impact**

9. Mum and I left London and moved to Kent the year before Dad died. Dad had several bouts of PCP pneumonia and was in and out of hospital a lot. He had his own place but went home to his Mum's house to be cared for by her and his two sisters and he died there in her front room.
10. I lived with my Mum and older brother after my parents split up and I would have visits with my Dad and also with his family, some of whom I am still in touch with. After Dad died, I used to ask them why and they would tell me that he (Dad) was 'just poorly'. It was Mum that eventually told me. She thought it was about time I knew what had happened to him and I was so shocked it took about two weeks before it began to properly sink in.
11. My Dad suffered emotionally and psychologically. He told some of his friends that he had the viruses and they distanced themselves from him. Mum said he felt horrible about himself. He became lonely and isolated and pushed other people away rather than becoming attached to them. That placed additional unnecessary strain on my Mum.
12. I really missed having my Dad in my life during my childhood (and beyond). My school friends had their father's in their lives and seeing them and hearing about them served as a sore reminder to me. I have a daughter of my own now. At nine months old she has just learned to say 'Grandad' (to my partner's father). What upsets me more than anything is that I might still have my father to this day had he not been left so long without successful treatment and help.

## **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

13. I do not know whether or not my father was offered any form of treatment before his death.

**Section 7. Financial Assistance**

14. I am not aware of any available financial assistance.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

15. I do not wish to apply for anonymity.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.....Shannon Greer .....

Dated.....24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.....