

Witness Name: Janet Stuart  
Statement No: WITN5241001  
Exhibits: WITN5241002  
Dated: January 2021

**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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Deirdre Mackey

The final period of Paul's ill health resulting in the loss of his life has been especially difficult for me to accept, or to try to come to terms with. The overwhelming fear Paul had throughout his life about having the treatment he needed to address all his medical conditions had a solid foundation through the misrepresentations, the lies and the downright inhuman behaviour of those who were privileged enough to offer their "care" to Paul and all his fellow sufferers.

The last two years of my son's life have been spent by him trying to protect me, as a mother. and us, as a family. whilst once again having to fight for the care and treatment he needed and against the mistrust he had in the medical teams with authority to take timely and appropriate action. We were estranged at Paul's request and I felt I could only respect his wishes, hoping that, in time, we would return to the loving relationship we had always known. I received a text from Paul in July of last year that went a long way towards explaining his confused feelings. I felt that we had connected once again. Unfortunately, this was to be his last communication to me and I will now have to live with the knowledge that I was unable to show him how brave I thought he was and hold him in my arms in his last very difficult months.

Jade Stone

Growing up I expected my Dad to pass away at any time. My parents were estranged so I only got to see my Dad every two weeks or so. I was aware that each time I saw my Dad could be the last, so I savoured every moment. My Dad pretty much kept me sheltered from his illness. He was always strong, and I was so proud that he was around. He seemed to have beaten the odds. He frequently amazed medical professionals, particularly as he survived volar Tuberculosis and, I suppose at some point after that, I had come to believe that he would live just as long as everyone else. I was able to talk to him in depth about his illness just a few years ago. I believe this was due to the Inquiry and as a result of the community coming together. He felt more able to speak about it openly as I do believe the HIV diagnosis took a huge toll on his mental health. I believe he had PTSD having struggled

so very much in the first few years of his diagnosis and many years after that to come to accept it. As anyone would expect, it wasn't easy and not only led to relationship and friendship breakdowns but it must have left him with a horrifying expectation of imminent death, particularly as he has had a small child at the time. He must have gone through so many emotions. As he was not aware of the infection for so many years, it was a miracle Dad didn't pass the virus on to anyone else and that he survived for as long as he did. I do not believe that enough was done to support those infected at all. I believe that the Government and the NHS tried very hard to cover their tracks and make it look like they had resolved the issue. In the lead up to my Dad's cancer diagnosis he was too reluctant and anxious to seek medical help unless he absolutely needed to because of the past negligence and disgusting stigmatic treatment he had to put up with. As he had become used to having lumps and haematomas, he did not understand that he had a serious issue. Dad had needed a tooth extraction for some time years previously because of an infection. If he had received the dental treatment as requested by him back then, I am almost certain his death could have been avoided. The medical professionals did not want to remove infected teeth of Haemophiliacs. Surely they knew an infection like that would likely develop into something more serious. The growth on my Dad's neck grew bigger and he started bleeding, so he finally sought medical help and asked for enough Factor VIII to prevent any bleeding in case it was something more than a haematoma. Unbelievably he was not provided with sufficient FVIII and this led to delay in getting the correct diagnosis. When he finally received dental treatment and a biopsy nearly six months later, he was diagnosed but never staged and was never given a terminal diagnosis and the cancer had spread. If he had been treated earlier, his tumour would not have grown to the size it had in the months leading to radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Purely through having HIV, there were further delays whilst they decided which hospital would give him his treatment. If they had acted sooner, he would again have had his chances of survival increased. Once he started treatment I believe many of the staff at Glan Clwyd Hospital did as much as they could and, as a result of the care given to my Dad, I am aware that they have since set up much improved Haemophilia Department. It is absurd that so many medical professionals don't know what haemophilia is! It was the most confusing and heart-breaking moment ever being told my dad had passed away. I realised instantly how naive I had been. The feeling of having lost such an important and integral person to my life is incomprehensible but mostly I just couldn't believe we were not made aware that this was going to happen. As has now been confirmed by an Oncologist at Glan Clwyd Hospital, the chance of fighting HPV type cancers for someone with HIV is slim and HIV can even cause HPV type cancers. The realisation that my dad probably would never

even have got cancer if he had not been given infected blood products, and if he had developed that cancer, his chances of survival would have been far lower is just absolutely devastating. I feel that I have lost some twenty or more years with m Dad because of NHS and Government negligence, lies, greed and inhumanity. That's on them 100% and there's no other explanation.