

Witness Name: Kim Knight  
Statement No: WITN3583001  
Exhibits: 0  
Dated: September 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KIM KNIGHT

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I, Kim Knight will say as follows:-

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is Kim Knight of GRO-C  
GRO-C Birmingham, GRO-C My date of birth is GRO-C 1957. I am married and currently work full-time.
2. My father passed away on 2 August 2014 and my mother is in a care home with severe dementia. I have a younger brother named Glen Budgen who has two children. Glen is also providing his own statement to the Inquiry 'WITN3315001'.
3. I make this statement on behalf of my late brother, Victor Budgen, who was born on the GRO-C 1963 and who passed away on the 23 October 1998, as a result of AIDS.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late brother's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

5. I do recall that Victor told me that he was infected with Hepatitis C (Hep C) in the early 1990s. However, I do not know the circumstances in which he was informed about the infection or what information was provided to him.
6. Please refer to Glen's statement in respect of how Victor was infected with HIV and the circumstances in which he was informed about it.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

7. I wish to rely on Glen's statement in relation to this section.

## **Section 4. Consent**

8. I wish to rely on part of Glen's statement in relation to this section.
9. I definitely believe that Victor was infected with HIV and Hep C without his knowledge. My parents consented to Victor having FVIII products when he was a baby because he had a brain haemorrhage, but I do not believe my parents were told that there was a possible risk of infection from using it.
10. I believe Victor was treated and tested without being provided with adequate and full information. I believe that my mother did not know where the blood came from and she assumed it came from a clean source. My mother was a blood donor herself and she believed that the products Victor received were safe.
11. I believe Victor was treated for the purposes of research, with his consent. He volunteered for anything that was available to help assist the medical team and was willing to help anyone.

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

12. Victor was a very strong person and although, after being told he had HIV, he was worried about his future. He was very quiet in nature and kept his thoughts and feelings to himself. He was a very caring person and would

always think of others before himself. This was shown by him volunteering to be a guinea pig for any new treatments that was available at the time. Despite this we all knew he was heavily impacted by the infections as he was always careful when touching others. He was a young man who would come on holiday with us and spend time with my children. As a result of being infected he started distancing himself from my children.

13. One of the major health complications that Victor struggled massively with was diarrhoea, but the hospital was unable to find out what was causing it. He also suffered from rapid weight loss. He went into the hospital for tests and was admitted for a couple of weeks. Unfortunately, he never came out from the hospital. He passed away before the doctors were able to give him a diagnosis.
14. Victor lived with my parents and never had a place of his own. During his admittance in hospital, I went a few times to visit him. The night he passed away, I got a telephone call at 6am to receive the news. My husband and I decided best not to tell our children as my eldest was sitting her A Levels the following morning. We both felt it was untimely to shock our children with the news that their uncle had passed away.
15. I would like to rely on Glen's statement in regards to the course of Victor's illness, the treatment Victor received for his infections, any difficulties he faced in receiving such treatment and the side-effects he suffered as a result of the infections.
16. I would like to rely on Glen's statement in regards to the impact the infection/s may have had on Victor's medical and dental care.
17. Victor discovered that he had been infected at a very young age and as a result of his diagnosis, he never pursued a relationship. He died without ever having a girlfriend and therefore he never had the opportunity to start a family of his own. Furthermore, although he loved my children and they loved him, he was very cautious around them due to the fear of infecting them.

18. When I found out that Victor was infected there wasn't much information around at the time to help me understand the infection. I went to the GP about it, but no one ever told us what HIV meant, or how it could be transmitted. At the time I was worried as I had young children. Despite this fear, we didn't change the way we treated Victor, although he himself took a slight step back.
19. My husband and children were close to Victor. Victor would come on holidays with us to the USA. We spent a lot of time together so when I lost him it was a massive shock. He was my baby brother. When he had gone into hospital we were all under the impression that he was only getting tested. None of us had suspected that he would pass away in hospital at that time.
20. Please refer to Glen's statement in regards to the stigma associated with HIV and Hep C.
21. My mother was always the main carer for Victor as a child. She was with him every day cooking meals and even when he was in hospital she brought food with her to encourage him to eat. As she was his carer, I believe that she took Victor's death better than my father did who never really got over it. My father has since passed away and my mother is in a care home and as stated above she suffers from dementia.
22. It devastated my mother to lose her child and she felt somewhat responsible for what happened as she understood Haemophilia passed through the female line. She blames herself for giving Victor Haemophilia which later led to AIDS. Prior to having children of my own, my mother insisted that I have the genetic test to ensure I wasn't a carrier of the Haemophilia gene. I tested negative for it.
23. Victor worked for John Laing who employed him despite his HIV status. If he had a hospital appointment, he would attend it, and then return straight back to work. He should have taken more time off work, but it kept him going. He really enjoyed his work.

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

24. No counselling or psychological support was made available to me in consequence of what happened to my brother, Victor. If it was offered to me, I believe that it would have helped. I do not know if Victor was provided with any counselling or psychological support. At the very least it could have made things clearer to me in terms of how to cope with and manage Victor's infections. It would have also helped my parents to know how the infection could have been transmitted and what to realistically expect about his future.

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

25. Please refer to Glen's statement for information regarding financial assistance and any difficulties Victor faced in obtaining such assistance.

26. No financial assistance was offered to me.

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

27. I have no further issues to raise.

### **Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

28. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

29. I am willing to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.

GRO-C

Dated 2 September 2019