

Witness Name: Sarah Martin

Statement No.: WITN3689001

Exhibits: **WITN3689002**

Dated: 03/02/2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SARAH MARTIN

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 16 October 2019.

I, Sarah Martin, will say as follows: -

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Sarah Martin. My date of birth is GRO-C 1957 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about my brother Peter, who was infected with Hepatitis C by a blood transfusion. He was born on GRO-C 1952 and died on 30 June 2008. My sister Louise is here today to help to recall events. She was born on GRO-C GRO-C 1966.
2. In particular, I intend to speak about the nature of Peter's illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.



## Section 2. How Affected

3. I am the middle child of a big family. There are 7 of us. I was a Nurse and I am retired now due to ill health. I suffered from a stroke and I have Lupus. My family is so close, so when I lost Peter, this really didn't help my health. I am aware with Lupus that you get anxious and depressed, but it all got so much worse when Peter died.
4. We are all an extremely close-knit family. So close that we have a memorial barbecue on the 30 June every year, Peter was only 55 years old when he died. We dress up in silly outfits and we all take it in turns to host the memorial. This year it's his son Martin who is hosting.
5. Peter was previously married to Sheila. They were married for many years and had two children together, Victoria and Martin. Sheila and Peter later divorced.
6. He was with his partner Wendy until he passed. Wendy Campbell (W1848) was his partner of 22 years, she has given her own statement. Peter lived in GRO-C with her.
7. When he was around 18 he joined the Royal Air Force (RAF). He wanted to join as Mum and Dad were in the army. He was devoted and very dedicated to his job. He was very fit.
8. In 1970, he joined the RAF and was given 3 vaccinations for travelling abroad. He was given smallpox injections but they were too close to one another, and ended up developing epilepsy. But it didn't take over his life.



9. He was Chief Technician in the RAF. He was always cagey about his work, he wouldn't tell us that much. But we know he won a bravery award. He wouldn't tell us exactly why he won it but he fought with 3 men who attacked him in Gann.
10. On 13 July 1985, he had an accident. It was a scary accident. The hospital thought he only had a 10% survival rate and he was intensive care for 11 weeks.
11. Sheila, my sister-in-law and Peter my brother, had been at an event the night of 12 July 1985. The next day he drove with his wife to change a garment which needed to be returned. This is when the accident happened.
12. Whilst driving, he had an epileptic fit and his foot got caught on the peddle at 80 mph. They went straight into a tree and had to be cut out of the car. He was rushed to hospital.
13. On the day of the car accident, I got a call from Sheila's dad saying "I got some bad news for you. Your brother had a serious accident". When we saw him, he was literally unrecognisable. I saw transfusion blood and drips all around him in the hospital. He had a metal plate in his arm and had broken his face. He had a blood transfusion which saved his life.
14. Peter got infected with Hepatitis C in 1985 because of this transfusion.
15. There were a few incidents when he was in the hospital which were scary. He had an aneurysm and survived that thankfully.



16. There was another time I walked into the ward to see him struggling on a ventilator, while he was in an induced coma. I could see his face panicking but I went over to him and he managed to write 'Ox' on my hand. I called medical staff immediately to say he couldn't breathe and needed oxygen. They chuckled me out of the room while they were trying to help him. But I said "no I'm staying with him". That's how close we were.

17. We had a room where we could visit him in the hospital. GRO-C

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GRO-C we looked after Peter. Eventually he recovered from the accident.

18. About 10 years later, after the accident, my mum received a letter to our family home in GRO-C Peter didn't live there, he was in the RAF and posted overseas in Cyprus, at the time.

19. It is strange that the letter went to my mum as he had a wife at that time. But they probably couldn't trace him to Cyprus. I don't remember exactly what the letter said, but at the top it said 'CARE OF'. Essentially it said that he needed to go to hospital and get checked as he may have Hepatitis C.

20. We were all shocked, especially Peter.

21. I have been asked if I recall how Peter found out he had Hepatitis C and what information was given to him by which hospital and which Doctor. However I cannot remember these details.

22. He found out he had Hepatitis C, and then the RAF asked him to leave because of it.



23. It took 9 months to be put on Interferon treatment. I do not know how many Interferon treatments he had.

24. It was just such a difficult time for him and he became very depressed and was generally exhausted.

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

25. Before the Interferon treatment, he had no jaundice symptoms. The medical staff at his hospital thought it was strange how anaemic he was, so they made him get an X-ray. This is how he found out he had Cancer. This was at the Friarage Hospital.

26. He got the diagnosis in 2006/7 and it was very aggressive. It was very progressive so he was quickly given Chemotherapy and was then in remission. His Cancer was mostly treated in local clinics in Yorkshire.

27. They caught the Colon Cancer, but then it went to his Liver. He knew he wouldn't get through it. He had numerous tumours in his liver. At the time, the surgeon said it was so unusual to be dealing with the Colon Cancer and Hepatitis C of the Liver at the same time.

28. They couldn't operate on his liver because it was a part of the liver, that if they took it away, it wouldn't heal properly. He had Chemotherapy for his Liver but decided to stop it.



29. I was a Nurse at the time, and went to talk to an Oncologist at my hospital. I explained Peter's medical history to him. I told the Oncologist that the hospital said he had 5 years to live. The Oncologist said "I'm sorry I think he will only for 6 months". I was glad as I wanted to be prepared and I went back to tell my family. I wanted to know as I had this feeling anyway. I needed to prepare for it.
30. Peter lived in Yorkshire and we had gone to stay with him as he wasn't doing so well. We had spent a few days with him and then most of my family returned home to Essex on the Sunday. I said to Wendy, "do you mind if I stay another night?" as I had a funny feeling.
31. Louise and the family had arrived home to Essex when they got a call that he was going downhill. Then Martha, my sister drove Louise and my siblings back the same night.
32. Peter was collected from home by an ambulance. But the paramedics didn't take his health issues seriously, they didn't realise how bad he was. He was bloated and jaundiced, but it looked like a tan. But they just put him in a ward with everyone else.
33. I went into the hospital and the nurse couldn't get his blood but I managed to get it from him.
34. My siblings, Mary, Sam and Helene came from Wales. Louise and the others came from Essex. They both pulled up at the car park at the exact same time at the hospital.
35. The hospital only gave us a curtain for privacy and he went downhill very quickly. We were told he was going. We stayed there that night and he went the next morning with everyone around his bed.



36. Thankfully my Mum and Dad had both passed away so neither of them saw their son die. He died in Friarage Hospital on 30 June 2008.
37. After he died, the staff came in and apologised and said "sorry we didn't know the extent of what Peter was going through". But I had explained his medical history and it was his local hospital where he had come for treatment.
38. Peter was only infected with Hepatitis C. He had no other blood transfusions. He had tattoos after the accident but I reckon they were all in the UK.
39. I don't believe Peter had given consent for the blood transfusion. His family were not made aware of the risks. However it was a 'life and death' situation and the blood transfusion saved his life. There wasn't any information given.
40. Thankfully his partner, Wendy has not been infected with Hepatitis C. I don't know if he was given information about infecting his partner.

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

41. There was no consent given by his family for a blood transfusion, but it saved his life that day. As mentioned before, I do not think he gave any consent either.
42. He didn't get tested for anything to my knowledge, without his consent.



## Section 5. Impact

43. Years later after being infected, my sister Louise asked "do you feel bitter?". He replied "no". He was just grateful that the guy had donated blood because it saved his life that day. But he did suffer a lot mentally and physically.
44. After he finished his treatment , he said "it's ok I'm dying". He was very bloated and yellow after his Hepatitis C treatment.
45. He was forced to leave the RAF. He would never have left if he had not been forced to. This had a knock-on effect.
46. He developed depression but it got worse after starting his own business. He had a car dealership because he loved cars and was so passionate about them. But he had problems with his business regarding payment and someone was taking him to court.
47. His granddaughter cheered him up and he idolised her. She brought a lot of light to him, he wanted to live for Miranda.
48. He also adored cars, as soon as he knew he couldn't drive (after the Cancer), he really went downhill. He had a nervous breakdown and he had to take anti-depressants.
49. In 2007, we went to Egypt on a trip to the Nile. But he couldn't participate much. The holiday was 10 months before he died. There is a photo of him shown in Exhibit **WITN3689002**. He couldn't do much on the holiday.



### Treatment

50. He was given Interferon soon enough after his diagnosis, maybe about 9 months in 1996. Wendy had to help him get on they treatment. They had to fight for it.
51. He was put on Interferon as treatment but it didn't work. It worked for a short period. But generally he was always ill. He just got so tired and he had a yellow complexion. It was mostly the Hepatitis C, but the Interferon didn't make him feel good. It slowed him down. He just thought, "what's the point?"
52. The hospital told him that he cleared the Hepatitis C. But then it came back. I don't know how long he had cleared it.
53. He always tried to put on a brave face while on treatment. But his heart sank when he would come out of treatment.
54. He got Diabetes Type 2 after the Interferon treatment, and had to chew lots of ice.

### Family Impact

55. I went to the oral hearings with Victoria and Wendy in Leeds. That's near where Peter lived and I wanted to support them. It helped going to see other families and to understand how other people suffered. It doesn't sound nice. But it made me feel better knowing there were families were out there just like us.
56. As I have said before, we are all extremely close. My brother passing all hit us very hard.



57. Sam is Peter's only brother. Sam always references Peter. They were each others' rock. We joke around with my brother that he has a shrine for Peter in this home. There is a cupboard which has Peter's RAF cap, a picture of when he was very ill, a flag and his ashes. We use these memorabilia each year for the annual barbecue.
58. Helene was his sister. The two of them grew up together. My parents were in the army and were posted all over the world like Singapore and Malaysia. So they were very close and she misses him a lot.
59. Peter married Sheila when he was 18 years old. They had two children, Martin and Victoria. His daughter, Victoria is on antidepressants over losing her father.
60. Peter had 1 grandchild while he was alive that he adored, and now he has 2 more grandchildren.
61. Peter and Wendy lived together, Wendy had 2 of her own children. So Peter left a lot of family and people behind that loved him greatly.
62. Wendy and Peter had booked to go to Gretna Green and to get married while he was ill. But Peter was not fit enough to go. So we took his ashes there after he passed. We took his ashes in a carrier bag, which Peter would not have been happy about.
63. One time we were having tea, and he asked me if, "if I ever get scared with my illness?" Peter was scared and frightened. I said "I do but I try not to allow it to get to me". I said "if we could, we would take the pain away for you".



## Stigma

64. Peter was very aware of stigma and general perception. I think he kept to his family and close friends, people didn't really know about it. So had no real issues about how he was treated.

65. We didn't know a lot about Hepatitis C. Obviously it was at the time of HIV and we didn't know much about Hepatitis C and if it was a 'death sentence'.

66. Louise had her son, and went to stay with Peter often. He would always be careful. He would say things like, "don't worry I put my razor in the middle of the bin". He was very aware of other people and his infection.

## Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

67. Wendy had to fight for Peter to get Interferon treatment. He got diagnosed in 1996, and it took 9 months to be treated.

68. He went to the doctors and got antidepressants but he had no counselling. I went to doctor's appointments with him, and counselling was never mentioned.

## Section 7. Financial Assistance

69. Peter was in the RAF, warrant number L80816051. He would have been due a big pension from the RAF. But he was forced to leave. Wendy's children didn't get anything and Wendy didn't get any money either. The mortgage wasn't even paid so it was really hard for Wendy.



70. After speaking with my sister Martha, she informed me that he was given some financial aid but I am not sure how much or if it was from a trust or the RAF.

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

71. I would like to know if they were aware that the blood was infected at the time? If they knew it was infected, why didn't we get any help?

72. He should have had counselling. Emotionally he was completely alone, apart from us his family. Wendy was there for him but a bit like a brick and probably didn't know what was going on.

73. From my heart, there will be generations that *will*, and *still* be suffering and going through this. Many families have lost their loved ones and shouldn't have. It's just all so unnecessary.

74. Miranda, his granddaughter is really affected. She was only 5 years old and is a new generation who has been affected by this scandal. It's just so unnecessary. I feel better now since going to the hearings and having more of an understanding that it was not just us.

75. We are such a close family. I had a 'Macmillan Head Shave' in honour of him this year.



I have given some other papers that I have to the Inquiry Investigators these are listed here:

Exhibit number	Date	Comment
WITN3689002	2007	Photo of Peter Lloyd in 2007. He was on holiday in Egypt with his family.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

03/02/2020



