

Witness Name: C Burrows
Statement No: WITN4108001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: March 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CAROLINE BURROWS

I, Caroline Burrows, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Caroline Burrows and I was born on GRO-C 1976. I am a teacher and I live at an address known to the Inquiry.
2. I make this statement as an affected daughter of my late father, Christopher John Gough, who was born on GRO-C 1942 and sadly passed away from AIDS, aged only 52, on 10th February 1995.
3. My father contracted HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C via contaminated Factor VIII concentrates.
4. My sister, Dr Sarah Gough, has already written a statement under **WITN1246001** which details specific facts and dates, together with the effect of this tragedy has had upon our family and in particular upon our mother, Eileen Gough. My brother, Dr Nicholas John Gough has also prepared a written statement under **WITN4109001**.
5. This is my statement which details the impact which my father's illness and subsequent death had upon me.

6. **This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's full medical records.**

Section 2. How Affected

7. I refer to my sister's witness statement.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I refer to my sister's witness statement.

Section 4. Consent

9. I refer to my sister's witness statement.

Section 5. Impact

10. Despite suffering with severe Haemophilia A, my dad was a wonderful father to his three children. He would occasionally suffer with painful joint bleeds for which my mother was able to treat him with Factor VIII at home when necessary.
11. In the late 1980s, I became aware of the '**AIDS epidemic**' through public health warnings on television. I was aware that some Haemophiliacs had been infected.
12. However, my parents decided not to initially disclose to us (the children) that my father had been infected. Despite not being aware of the diagnosis, I remember feeling terribly worried when he was admitted to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford in 1992 with pneumonia and wondering if he would ever come home again.

13. In December 1994, I came home from my first term at university. One evening, my father sat me down and told me that he had AIDS and also Hepatitis. I was shocked and devastated. At this point, my (older) sister, a medical student was already aware of our father's diagnosis but my (younger) brother wasn't. After the initial shock, I had several conversations with my father about his diagnosis. He told me that he had been told he was HIV positive over the telephone, having initially been told he wasn't. He explained how, for years he had been terrified that people would find out and our family would be victimised and stigmatised. He mentioned an incident when a Haemophiliac had had a brick thrown through his window. He mentioned family friends who had suddenly cut off contact with us for fear of '**catching AIDS**' and how hurtful this was.
14. In January 1995 my father was admitted to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford after repeatedly losing his balance. I visited him and felt shocked by his deterioration. I returned home from university on the evening of 9th February 1995. My father was now, by then, at home and was very weak and skeletal looking. He looked exactly like photographs I had seen in the press of people dying from AIDS and it took me a long time to get that image of him out of my mind. He died in the early hours of the following morning.
15. I had told friends that my father was ill but felt I could not be honest about the fact he had died from AIDS. Members of our school choir sang at his funeral and I was worried that people would no longer want to be friends with me once they knew how he had died. For years I told people he had died of brain cancer and it is only in the last few years that I have felt comfortable telling people how he really died.
16. I returned to university after his death where I saw no option but to just get on with things. I was never offered counselling or support. I was worried about the impact on my brother who was doing his GCSEs and how my mother would cope without my father.

17. Since early adulthood I have suffered with health anxiety which is worrying about the fact that I may be suffering from a serious illness. A particularly bad period of anxiety in 2017 led to me being prescribed antidepressants and also Talking Therapy. It was the Talking Therapy that finally made me realise the link between my father's illness and subsequent death and my health anxiety.

18. I feel so incredibly sad that my father never saw me or my siblings embark on careers, get married or met my and their children (his grandchildren) and that my mother was widowed at a young age, not through the chronic illness my father suffered from but because of something he was infected with.

19.

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20. My youngest son recently asked me how his grandpa died and I felt I couldn't give him an honest answer yet.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

21. I refer to my sister's witness statement.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

22. I refer to my sister's witness statement.

Section 8. Other Issues

23. This has been difficult to write but as the years have gone on, I have become much more of the view that the reality of what happened to people like my father and our family should be widely known.

Anonymity

24. I do not want to apply for anonymity and I do not wish 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

Date..... 26/03/20