

Witness Name: **Mary Lovell**

Statement No.: **WITN6400001**

Exhibits: **Nil**

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARY LOVELL**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 16 June 2021.

I, Mary Lovell, will say as follows: -

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

1. My name is Mary Lovell. My date of birth is **GRO-C** 1955 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am a business development manager, with services to lawyers and we gather corporate information. I remarried 4 years ago and live in a small village outside Cardiff. I have 3 children. My late brother Peter, was infected with HCV (hereafter 'HCV') through blood transfusions. Peter was born on **GRO-C** 1952 and he died on 30th June 2008.
2. I intend to speak about my brother, Peter and in particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.

3. My siblings and Peter's partner have already given statements to the Inquiry. My brother Samuel Lloyd (W4037), sisters Helene Hall (W4038), Sarah Martin (W3689), Martha Charalambous (W3979) and his partner Wendy Campbell (W1848).

## **Section 2. How Affected**

4. Helene is the eldest, Peter is the second eldest, then it's me, then Sally, my brother Sam, sister Martha, and Louise is the youngest sibling. My father had other children and therefore we have step-sisters.
5. We lived with Peter in GRO-C before he joined the RAF. We saw him infrequently. He lived in Cyprus and in various places, as he was in the RAF. We used to get very excited when he would visit us at home. When I was 21 I moved to Wales, I lived in GRO-C, and I was very close to Peter, I almost had premonitions before he came to visit me.
6. In and around 1976, he had just come back from Belize, and he had had injections for smallpox. But the injections were in too close succession and induced epilepsy. Nobody had this in the family. So when he came to visit, he was telling me about Guatemala. He had an epileptic fit whilst he was telling me about an incident and was in shock and it was awful. I think it was the first one he had. We thought he would lose his job, but he was put on Epilem to help with fits. He had them infrequently and he was given his driving license back.
7. When he was 19, he married Sheila. They lived in Germany and they also lived in Yorkshire.

8. In 1985, there was an awful accident. My eldest son was a baby at the time, and I remember being told there had been a bad car accident with Peter and Sheila. He was in Welwyn Gardens City Hospital, as he was in the accident nearby.
9. I drove down with my baby, we stayed in a family unit, and we accepted the worst. He was very bad when I saw him in hospital, he was unrecognisable, it was just awful. His face was broken, his eye had to be reshaped and he had facial reconstruction surgery. His knee had clamps. His ribs were broken. He had an embolism as well, but he pulled through. He had to have transfusions.
10. GRO-C Peter went to stay with Sally, my sister. Sheila and Peter got divorced some time after the accident . They lived in Cyprus, but they split up.
11. After the accident, he left the RAF, and he had a company called 'Prestige cars' in Catterick, as he loved cars. He and his business partner fell out, and ended badly.
12. When he was in Cyprus he met Wendy and she is an amazing woman and they were very happy as a couple.
13. I don't know when Peter was diagnosed with HCV and I don't know what HCV treatment he got. But he got quite moody, and Wendy was an angel to him. He was a lovely person, but he often became angry as a result of his medications. He was only 54 years old and had so much to live for. The medication really affected him.

14. I remember being at an event with Peter and Sam, and he told Sam that he had liver cancer. At first you don't really take it in, we remember him going through the treatments but I don't remember the exact date. I would keep in touch and check in with him. He was almost in denial, Wendy wanted him to have Macmillan care but Peter refused.
15. We are a very close family. My husband, John died on 7 April 2008 in a traffic accident. Peter came to the funeral but he looked yellow, he told us he had liver cancer but he looked very poorly. Peter did walk at John's funeral, but when we visited after the funeral soon after, he couldn't walk. He was very yellow. His eyes were yellow.
16. Peter had chemotherapy before and this was his second course of treatment. We were all very concerned and went up to see him and took him out. His legs were huge. His kidneys weren't working, you could tell.
17. He was quite philosophical, and knew he wasn't going to have long to live. He was worried about Miranda, she was his life, he and Wendy really looked after their granddaughter. That was his biggest concern. He suffered a lot during that period. Then we got the news from Wendy that he was really unwell. I drove up to Northallerton Hospital with my children. We were all with him. And then he just went.

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

18. He had no other infections, as far as I am aware.

### **Section 4. Consent**

19. I don't know how he was informed about the HCV. I don't know how he was told and I don't know if he was told about risks or if any advice was given. We just assumed it was from contaminated blood from his transfusions.

## Section 5. Impact

20. Peter drank alcohol. I think he was blocking out a lot, it was very harrowing having been in active service, it was quite scary for him. He was in telecommunications in the RAF, he had a lot of knowledge that he never spoke about. He wouldn't tell anyone anything, even if he was asked if he had killed someone.

21. I was concerned with the cancer, and I know now that the HCV was a precursor to cancer. I don't know all the treatments he had for cancer, but I know due to the HCV he couldn't have an organ transplant.

22. He had no issues or symptoms before his treatments. During his treatment he was very moody, he gained a lot of weight, and he may have been on steroids too. When we saw him we tried to have fun, but he was very stoic. He didn't like to dwell on anything.

23. My family is all really close. My brother Sam was particularly devastated and it affected him greatly when Peter died [GRO-C]

[GRO-C]

24. Peter's funeral was poignant, it was heart-breaking and they played, 'the last post'. I had a clear vision of Sam carrying Peter's coffin. While they walked, the song, 'he ain't heavy, he's my brother' was playing but we don't listen to the song anymore.

25. Peter's son found it difficult to deal with Peter's impending death.

26. Wendy is like a sister to us, and we see everyone regularly. Every year we have a BBQ for the anniversary of his death. We choose a mutual date that suits everyone and we have a theme for the BBQ, we listen to 'the last post', in order to remember our brother. We continued to do this all the way through any memorial event. We brought Peter's ashes, and to be buried with my parents' ashes, and next to John's ashes in Ely Cardiff. We regularly go there for birthdays, and events throughout the year. We have lots of things going on, for example at family weddings, his absence is really felt. The only saving grace he died after my mother and father did, it would have been so hard for them. My dad was so proud of him being in the RAF.

27. Peter's granddaughter Miranda was looked after by Wendy and Peter as well as her parents of course. Miranda and Wendy missed out the benefits of Peter's financial support .

28. Wendy and Peter were always going to get married. After the death, they went to a lovely Chapel or Abbey in North Yorkshire, and a memorial service where Wendy and Peter would have been married. It was sad they didn't get married.

29. I don't think he had any stigma issues about his HCV.

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

30. I think he had some tattoos. After operations, his tattoos weren't joined up properly afterwards. He had them when he was very young in the RAF. I think he had one. But he had no piercings and he took no drugs.

31. I had no issues. I don't think he was aware he had HCV for quite some time.

32. I don't think he was denied any medical treatment.

33. I don't know but I don't think he received counselling.

**Section 7. Financial Assistance**

34. There is no information I have about financial assistance.

**Section 8. Other Issues**

35. It's still such a loss, we all still talk about him, he was very amusing, he would really make you laugh, he was only 54 years old and he was far too young. You couldn't sue the state at that time, he shouldn't have even had the car accident. He shouldn't have had those transfusions.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

7. 9. 2021