

Witness Name: JAMES LINDSAY

Statement No: WITN2769001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: OCTOBER 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JAMES LINDSAY

I, JAMES LINDSAY will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is James Lindsay. I was born on GRO-C 1981 and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C
2. My father, David Malcolm Lindsay (born on GRO-C 1943), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products. He died on 10th June 1989, aged 46 and his death certificate confirms AIDS as the cause of death.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My father had severe Haemophilia A. He was brought up in GRO-C in the West Midlands and lived there for the best part of his life. He was treated at the Coventry Haemophilia Centre at the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust.

5. My father was treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate from in or around the early 1980s. My father was not warned about the risk of being exposed to infection from FVIII concentrate before he was given it. He would not have agreed to the treatment had he thought that he would contract HIV.
6. My mother told me that my father was in so much pain with his haemophilia bleeds and that he loved the FVIII concentrate when he started having it. FVIII concentrate helped him a lot and he thought it a positive/beneficial thing.
7. When I was two or three years old, we went to live in Scotland to be near to my mother's family. My father found the move hard and returned to Birmingham for work. He lived with his parents during the week and travelled home to my mother, my sister and me at weekends.
8. My father was told that he was infected with HIV at Coventry Hospital in or around 1987. My father did not know that he also had HCV.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I am not aware of my father having any other infections than that of HIV and HCV.

Section 4. Consent

10. I do not know if my father was tested and/or treated without his knowledge and consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. When my father was told that he had HIV and started to become ill I was only 6 years old. My parents were very protective of me. I wasn't told how or why my father was ill. My memory of events at that time is hazy as a result. My father subsequently died when I was only 8 years old. I believe that I have blocked out much of the trauma of my father's death.

12. I remember my father coming home to us in Scotland at weekends and that he came home when he contracted pneumonia. I also remember that my father lost a ton of weight. The photographs that we have of my father denote him as being a big healthy burly man. He also developed sight loss when he became ill.
13. My father was admitted to hospital for a long period of time before he died. I remember going to see him a lot in hospital. I watched the Mike Tyson and Frank Bruno boxing match with him in the hospital day room but he struggled to get up and out of bed to watch it with me. I was aware that it was important to him to do so and he managed it.
14. I think my mother and sister were with my father when he passed away. I was not there because I was protected from it all. In the morning following my father's death my mother got me out of bed and she told me my father had passed away. It was horrible. I was so upset and I cried. My mother tells me that I cried for 5 to 10 minutes and then asked if I could go out to play football. I think that I needed something else to think about and to distract me. Children have a way of compartmentalising their feelings. I needed to put the horrible news I had been given to one side and focus on something else.
15. We lived in a village in Scotland with a population of approximately 2,000 people. It was a small community with a small minded mentality at that time. There is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that we would have been shunned by everyone (and/or driven away) had they known that my father was infected with HIV/AIDS. When I was in my early teenage years, my friend's mother from our village was infected with the Hepatitis B Virus and was treated terribly. She was even sacked from her job at our local convenience store.
16. When I was 16 or 17 years old, my mother told me that my father had died from HIV/AIDS. She did not tell me before then for my own protection and I believe her decision to keep it from me until I was older to have been sensible. When you are young it is harder to keep a secret. My mother also

wanted to wait until I was old enough to understand and properly digest the information. We then moved to Yorkshire before I was 18 years old.

17. I still do not tell anyone except those very, very close to me about how my father died. I do not know why. It is not that I am ashamed of it but I prefer to keep it to myself. When I allow myself to think about it in any depth it makes me very angry and I tend to block it out as a result. You can go down the angry, bitter route or accept it. I go from one to the other. I try to not think about it too much. Growing up without a father has affected me and my life. As a boy, it is particularly hard to lose a father because you need a father to teach you how to be 'a bloke'. My life would have been a far one with my father still in it. Those infected and affected have been wronged in many ways.

18. My father had a very good job working in Finance/as an Accountant for a builders merchant. He earned something in the region of £30,000 to £40,000 per annum and the loss of that income was a massive financial loss for us. My mother was great in how she raised us but it was difficult for her and she struggled financially. She had a lot of debt to pay off after my father died and we ultimately lost our home because my mother could not afford the outgoings. She then tried again (unsuccessfully) to raise a mortgage in Scotland before we ended up moving to Yorkshire.

19. My mother and sister only found out relatively recently that my father was also infected with HCV when my mother was alerted to the existence of the Skipton Trust and the subsequent confirmation of the HCV diagnosis from Coventry Hospital.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

20. I have not been offered counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

21. My mother has had support from the MacFarlane Trust (and latterly from the Skipton Trust). I am not aware of any specific problems with the Trusts and Funds.

Section 8. Other Issues

22. We have been told that my father's medical records cannot be found and are likely to have been destroyed.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

23. I am not seeking anonymity and I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not want 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.....

22.1.20