

Witness Name: Brian Maguire

Statement No: WITN6414001

Exhibits: WITN6414002-3

Dated: August 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF BRIAN MAGUIRE

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I, Brian Maguire, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Brian Maguire. I was born on **GRO-C** 1947 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK and presently I live at **GRO-C**  
**GRO-C**
2. My father, Thomas Maguire (born on **GRO-C** 1919), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He died on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1987, aged 68. I refer to Exhibit WITN6414002, being a copy of my father's death certificate.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

4. My father (Dad) had severe Haemophilia A, diagnosed at birth. He was under the care of the Haemophilia Centre at the Royal Free Hospital, London (RFH). Dad was treated with Cryoprecipitate initially and he then went on to Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate administered at home by my mother. I refer to Exhibit WITN6414003 being a copy of my father's UKHCDO patient treatment record. My father was treated with a variety of FVIII treatment products to include Factorate and BPL.
5. I left England in the early 1970s. I travelled to Australia and lived there and then Iran before settling in Canada in 1974. I kept in touch with my parents through fortnightly calls home and came back with my wife and children for visits every two or three years. I refer again to Exhibit WITN6414003. It would appear that my father was infected with HIV late 1981/early 1982 as his last negative HIV sample was on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1981 and his first positive sample was taken on 15th May 1982. I do not know when or how my father was informed that he had been infected. My mother told us when we were on a visit home to England that Dad was infected with HIV through contaminated blood. Dad was a private person and would only talk in generalities. I do not think we all realised the full impact of HIV at this point of time.
6. I do not think my father knew that he was also infected with HCV, then known as Non-A Non-B Hepatitis (as stated on his death certificate). I refer again to Exhibit WITN6414003. My father had hepatitis and was jaundiced as early as the mid-1970s. The cause of Dad's death as noted on the third page of his UKHCDO record is stated as *'Liver failure associated with cirrhosis and alcoholic liver disease'*. I refute that statement as my father was most definitely a non-drinker. My father's early death as a result of cirrhosis and liver failure was caused by contaminated blood and, specifically, the HCV and HIV

infections. At the very most, and very rarely, Dad would drink either a shandy (beer and lemonade) or a sherry.

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

7. I am not aware of any other infection.

### **Section 4. Consent**

8. I believe it likely that my father was tested for infection without his knowledge and consent. From the UKHCDO record, it would appear that Dad was included as a subject in a study called 'Dr Craske's research work'.

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

9. Growing up within the Maguire household was a constant challenge due to my father's inability to manoeuvre around. In the early days I remember being told to be careful not to knock into him otherwise he would bruise badly. Father always thought that the haemophilia restricted him in his ability to better himself. He ended his working life as a cinema manager.
10. My father was obsessed with his haemophilia. He felt that he had been given a rough deal in life and he would talk to anyone and everyone about his disabilities. Father was often short tempered, and this was probably due to his inability to do things for himself. His work at the cinema kept him on his feet a

lot pulling pressure on his failing knee joints and this resulted in him being 'laid up' at times and he had to have time off work.

11. I am the middle of three sons. Being a father with haemophilia to three healthy and active boys was a problem for him. There was never a time that I remember him playing with us or suggesting a game of football to us. He had no ability or inclination to even try to participate in any sports. Saying this, I would not want to give a negative impression of him because he loved us all in his own way. He was an intelligent man and he tried to help us as much as possible with our school work. My mother, Vera Lillian Maguire, was father's primary health provider and she was the mainstay of our family. She certainly kept us boys on the 'straight and narrow'.
12. Growing up I remember that times were tough for us financially. We lived in a council house for years and father was so proud when he could eventually afford to buy it from the council. Help came to father when he was able to get blood supplements and FVIII concentrate was welcomed by Dad to help him when he had severe knee problems. This was before the days of knee replacements and he ended up getting his knee joints fused together. After the healing process, he then had zero knee pain but had to live with stiff legs for the rest of his life due to the breakdown and loss of knee cartilage.
13. In short, father's haemophilia deprived us of a normal upbringing. We were made and encouraged to stand on our own two feet, working at minor jobs at the cinema and doing a paper round. Life was far from easy but having a haemophilic father made life worse. To help with finances, we all paid a small household maintenance fee from the age we were able to work. As I recall we never went on vacation or out to a restaurant. I think that life financially only improved for our parents after we had all left the house. My Dad's life was a tough one and became even harder after being infected through the NHS with HIV and HCV.

14. I remember that Dad was bothered by intense itchiness as his health began to fail. I noticed a huge difference in how he looked when we returned to England to visit. He died at the age of 68 but he looked like a man in his late eighties. He looked frail and you can see facial deterioration in photographs taken of him before he died. He was slowly withering away, which deeply grieved my family and myself. With the passage of time and as he was a very private man, I cannot now recall the detail of the discussions between us. Father's illness had a huge impact on my mother. She would carefully inject him with the necessary supplements without any complaint. My older brother Robin would drive him on his hospital visits either to Oxford or to the Royal Free Hospital in London. Mum bore the brunt of it and he didn't want to burden me and my brothers with what he was going through.

15. In my opinion the contaminated blood products my father was given, shortened his life by at least 10 years. Because of this, my family has been deprived of a father, grandfather and great grandfather. My grown-up children have no memory of Dad and only know him through photographs. We have all missed out in NOT having him in our lives, a huge loss.

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

16. I do not think that Dad was offered any treatment to clear the infections, but he was helped and supported by his doctors and nurses.

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

17. I think that Dad received a lump sum payment through the Churchill Foundation, but I am unsure as to the date and amount.

**Anonymity**

18. I do not seek anonymity and I understand that this Statement will be disclosed for publication to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.....

GRO-C

Dated.....August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.....