

Witness Name: Robin Maguire

Statement No: WITN6415001

Exhibits: WITN6415002

Dated: August 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ROBIN MAGUIRE

I, Robin Maguire, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Robin Maguire. I was born on GRO-C 1944 and 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 1st June 1987, aged 67. I refer to Exhibit WITN6415002, 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 medical records. My younger (half) brothers Brian and Paul are also providing witness statement evidence to the Inquiry.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My (adopted) father had severe Haemophilia A from birth.
5. Dad was under the care of the Haemophilia Centre at the Royal Free Hospital, London (RFH). He had Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate as a home treatment, administered by both Mum and Dad.
6. I do not know when or how Dad was informed that he had been infected with HIV, but I believe that he found out about it in the mid-1980s. I do not think that Mum and Dad wanted to tell us straight away. It is not a pleasant thing to have to relay to your sons. Brian had settled in Canada and Paul was in South Africa. I was the closest geographically to my parents and we didn't speak of it and I wasn't privy to Dad's discussions with his doctor. Because of the associated stigma of Dad being infected with HIV, there was no real discussion between us about it. It just wasn't talked about and we kept it to ourselves. My understanding is that Dad was infected with FVIII concentrate bought from America from blood donated by drug addicts for money. It was known initially as the 'gay disease' and we all know now that it wasn't.
7. I do not think that my parents were given much advice on how to manage the HIV infection as HIV/AIDS was in its infancy.
8. We did not know that Dad was also infected with HCV, then known as Non-A Non-B Hepatitis (as stated on his death certificate) until after he died. Cirrhosis and hepatic failure are included on the Death Certificate, yet Dad was a non-drinker.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I am not aware of any other infection.

Section 4. Consent

10. I believe that Dad probably was treated and tested for infection without his knowledge and consent and without adequate information. Despite the fact that Dad's clinicians and those in authority were probably aware of the dubious source of the FVIII treatment, he was still given it.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. Dad suffered with colds and other opportunistic infections. He spent the last couple of years of his life bothered by intense itchiness. The way he felt the cold was also one of the worst things for him. He kept saying that he felt very cold. I remember visiting my parents one day (we lived just over a mile's distance from each other) and found Dad sitting in his small greenhouse. It was a sunny day and the greenhouse was quite hot, but Dad said he felt really cold.

12. Dad suffered a lot with haemophilia bleeds and had both knees fused at different times. He was very much a non-complainer. He would say 'there are other people worse off than me'. He was of that era (the pre-war generation). Thinking back, Dad probably was very depressed when he found out that he had HIV. Mum noticed it more than me. She would occasionally remark to me that Dad wasn't 'happy in himself today'. He was otherwise brave and cheery.

13. Dad looked yellow and jaundiced for a long time (at least 10 years) before he died. He struggled to eat much over the latter years of his life, although I do not think that he ever had a vivacious appetite.

14. Dad was a cinema manager. He was a well-known, upstanding person in the community. He was thought of as being a bit stern at the cinema (often telling the cinema goers to keep the noise down) but always very fair. He was a character. He was loved by a lot of people and was recently fondly remembered

as the cinema manager on Facebook. Dad retired at the age of 65 and had only just over two years of retirement before he died. He would have been able to enjoy years of his retirement if it hadn't been for his infections. He was robbed. He loved sitting in the garden, and he loved wildlife. He loved people and he could talk for hours.

15. Dad was far from well and, after his retirement, he wasn't always able to still drive his (specially adapted) car. I drove him to some of his hospital appointments at the RFH and to the Nuffield Hospital in Oxford for his care. When Dad died, I had to try and support Mum. She lived until she was 92 or 93 years old and she was alone without him for all those years.

16. Dad loved his family. I remember my (then) wife and I were thinking about emigrating at one stage and I asked Dad his opinion. He said to me 'I hope you aren't going to leave me like your brothers did'. He was upset and scared at the thought of losing us. I was very touched (because we are not blood related) and I am glad that I didn't move away. Dad loved to be around his grandchildren. My daughter (now 51 years old) still remarks on how much she misses him, her 'Grandad Tom'. I have a daughter and a son, three grandchildren and six grandchildren. Dad has missed out on all of that.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

17. 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

18. I do not think that Dad had any help and support from the Trusts and Funds.

Anonymity

19. 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.....

Dated.....

Section 7. Financial Assistance

18. I do not think that Dad had any help and support from the Trusts and Funds

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

15 June 2021