

Witness Name: Paul Lovelock

Statement No: WITN6428001

Exhibits: WITN6428002

Dated: September 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PAUL LOVELOCK

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I, Paul Lovelock, will say as follows:-

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

1. My name is Paul Lovelock. I was born on GRO-C 1969 and I live at GRO-C, Surrey GRO-C
2. My uncle, Leno Emmanuelli (born on GRO-C 1932), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis Virus through contaminated blood products. He died on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1983, aged 50. I refer to Exhibit WITN6428002, being a copy of my uncle's death certificate.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my uncle's medical records.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

4. My Uncle Leno had severe Haemophilia A. He died at the St Helier Hospital in Carsholton after developing Acute Suppurative Meningitis. My mother (his older sister) and my Uncle Luigi (his brother) were told there that my Uncle Leno's death was caused by a 'bad' transfusion of blood product or products. My mother passed away in September 2019 and I am his only remaining relative.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

5. I do not think my Uncle Leno was infected with anything other than HIV and Hepatitis. I am uncertain as to whether Uncle Leno was infected with the Hepatitis B Virus or the Hepatitis C Virus or both.

## **Section 4. Consent**

6. I believe it highly likely that Uncle Leno was treated with blood products without adequate information and/or warning of risk. Uncle Leno was a bit of a hypochondriac and he would not have knowingly put himself in harm's way. Anyone trying to convince him to have treatment carrying any element of risk would have had a huge fight on their hands. My mother was in utter shock when Leno became unwell and died. It was all very sudden. My sister lost her life to sepsis at the same hospital (St Helier Hospital) in 2018. It was ironic and poignant for my mother to lose her only daughter in the same hospital she lost her younger brother to HIV.

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

7. My mother and her brothers lost their parents in the early years of the war. My mother brought Leno up from an early age. She was like a mother to him and they were very close.

8. Leno was treated for bleeds at St Helier Hospital and was there for treatment not long before he died. I remember my mother taking a succession of urgent phone calls from Leno's partner Ivan in the middle during the night. Leno was violently unwell, and, at first, we thought it might be food poisoning. Ivan didn't know what to do or how to deal with the situation and needed advice. The calls to our family resulted in Leno being rushed to hospital by ambulance.
9. The speed of Leno's deterioration whilst in hospital took everyone by surprise. It was so quick, just three or four days between Leno being admitted and his untimely death. The clinicians told my mother and my Uncle Luigi that Leno had become infected through 'bad blood'. They later closed ranks and did not want to become engaged in conversations on the subject. The hospital fell into radio silence and my mother really did push them for the truth.
10. I was relatively young (aged 14) when Uncle Leno died. I was at an impressionable age and I remember just how devastated my mother was by Leno's death. The thing I remember most was the suffering of my mother. She fell apart and then she shut down. She took to her bed and wouldn't move. I had never seen her like that. She had, in effect, lost a child because she had brought Leno up.
11. Leno's sudden and untimely death seemed so dramatic because of the speed of it and I think it served to highlight the mortality of our own lives. Leno had worked hard all his life. He worked in the catering trade every day to include weekends. He worked at some high-profile bars and restaurants and he really seemed to love what he did. When he died, our lives fell apart. He was fine before he was admitted to hospital and days later, he was gone. There was no state help available to Leno's partner, Ivan. He wasn't able to maintain the flat they had shared and had to move on and relocate down in Sussex.

12. Because of the stigma of HIV (and Hepatitis), the conversations were muted around me and my brother. HIV/AIDS was thought of as a death sentence at that time. Our parents would not have wanted us to be picked on and bullied and we were told not to speak of it outside the home. It was discussed more openly when I was in my twenties and thirties and other people were better educated.

13. My mother never came to terms with her younger brother's death. She never let it go and didn't know where to start to seek Justice for him and those like him. She was very interested in the Infected Blood Inquiry and it hurts that she won't get to see the Inquiry reach a conclusion. She believed the NHS killed her brother and wanted some accountability. She was 92 years old and had started to develop dementia when she died. I would sit by her bed and she would call me 'Leno'. When you love someone as much as my mother loved Leno, you cannot recover from it.

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

14. I do not think that my Uncle was offered any treatment to clear the infection(s).

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

15. I do not think that my Uncle had any help and support from the Trusts and Funds.

#### **Anonymity**

16. 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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021