

Witness Name: Michael Roulson

Statement No.: WITN6483001

Exhibits: WITN6483002

Dated: ~~XX~~ December 2021

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INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MICHAEL ROULSON

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 26 August 2021.

I, Michael Roulson, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Michael Harold William Roulson, my date of birth is GRO-C GRO-C 1942 and my address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I intend to speak about my mother's infection with a blood-borne disease that she got as a result of receiving blood and blood products. In particular, I will speak about the nature of her illness and how the illness affected her and our family.
3. My mother, Annie Roulson, was born on GRO-C 1909 and died on 24th August 1976. She was a teacher up until she got married in 1939. She married my father, who was a vicar, and was married until her death. They retired in the early 1970s and went to live near GRO-C

4. I got married in 1966 to Eileen. We recently celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary. We have one son, Richard, who was born in 1968. He lives with his family in Scotland. In 1960, I started working for Midland Bank. After 20 years, I resigned and went to work for Wirral Borough Council as a head ranger in the countryside areas on the Wirral. After five years, I resigned and obtained a job with the National Trust as Head Warden for the North West Area of the Lake District National Park. We moved to live in the Lake District in a village called [GRO-C] [GRO-C] I retired in 2003. Since then, I have lived in [GRO-C] [GRO-C]

Section 2. How Infected

5. I believe my mother was infected after receiving blood transfusions and blood products. She died from a massive haemorrhage which the doctors could not control. Unfortunately, I have been unable to obtain her medical records. I wrote to the Care Quality Commission asking about how to get hold of her medical records and they advised me to direct my request to the hospital. I subsequently wrote to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, on 13th September 2021, to ask for her records but they no longer have them. They informed me that having undertaken a *'full search for the patient...we no longer have the patient registered. We can destroy medical records after 7 years of the patient being seen.'*
6. Her death certificate lists her cause of death as *'1a. intraperitoneal haemorrhage; 1b. clotting Factor VIII deficiency; 1c. antibodies to Factor VIII'*. I am attaching her death certificate as Exhibit WITN6483002. I was never aware that she was a haemophiliac, but given the details on her death certificate, I am assuming that she had haemophilia.
7. I do not recall my mother having any illnesses up to the year that she was taken ill. She had very good health in general. However, sometime after Easter of 1976, she was taken ill. She had these black blotches

appear on her arms and legs and there was bleeding under the skin surface. We were living in Liverpool at the time so we would travel every weekend to see her. She was in and out of hospital in Lancaster and was being treated by her GP as well.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I do not know what she was infected with as a result of her treatment with blood and blood products (as I have been unable to obtain her medical records).

Section 4. Consent

9. I am unable to provide details on whether she had been tested for anything against her will or without her consent for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

10. My mother dying had a major impact on me. We were a tight-knit family and I was her only son. I've kept the last letter my mother wrote to the family from her hospital bed shortly before she died. It was written on 25th July 1976. In the letter, she describes how she was obviously not enjoying being in hospital and realised that she was going to die. She spoke at length about her faith in God. I wish I could talk to my parents.
11. Until you lose your parents, you don't realise how much of a sounding board they are. Our memories of her are so important to us. She was a very loving and caring granny, mother and mother-in-law. I couldn't pick any holes in her character. She was quite Victorian in her attitudes and morals. My mother and father would visit people in the hospital as part of their ministry. They took pastoral care of parishioners. My wife tells me that as a mother-in-law, she was wonderful.

12. My father was left on his own in his retirement. We spent a lot of time with him after my mum died. He died four years after she passed away. My father missed having his wife with him. Naturally, when one partner dies you stop doing certain things. His friends would invite him for meals and he would feel like the left one out as he was by himself. I know my father utilised his faith to keep him going after my mother's death.
13. My son, Richard, was only eight years old when his granny died. He was my mother's only grandchild. They had a very good relationship – they were both so important to each other. Richard has never spoken much about her. I remember on one occasion, Richard made some rose petals and took it to the hospital for my mum. My mum loved it – she joked that it was like a 'new perfume' for her. That memory sticks out for me.
14. I have wondered whether what happened to my mum will affect my health in some way too: if she had haemophilia, will I have it if it's passed from mother to son? I also don't know whether I would have been infected through transmission from her. There are lots of unanswered questions. I wonder whether I should be going to the doctors to get some blood tests done.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

15. As I stated earlier, my mother fell ill in April 1976. She spent several weeks in the Lancaster Royal Infirmary until the time of her death on 24th August 1976. I suspect she went into hospital in April, was discharged and then was readmitted later for some more stints in hospital to treat her. I cannot recollect who treated her and therefore have not mentioned any of the doctors names.
16. My mother seemed quite content with the fact that the hospital was doing everything they could. My father had no anger in relation to her death: he accepted that what will be will be. I don't recall him having any criticism of the hospital or about her treatment, but I suspect that's

because he was ignorant of what was going on. Unfortunately, I find it very difficult to remember precise details of her illness and what treatment she received because it was so long ago.

17. I have never been offered any form of counselling or psychological support. I don't think they offered those types of things back in the 1970s. As my father was a retired clergyman, he would not have asked the medical profession for any counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

18. I am not aware of any financial schemes. If I were to be paid any form of financial assistance, it would go to a Christian charity. I wouldn't feel comfortable receiving anything.

Section 8. Other Issues

19. I wasn't aware of this Inquiry until last year when I saw it in the newspapers. I've been listening to what's going on via the podcasts. I just felt that I owe it to my mother to pursue this, tell her story and find out what happened. I am not looking for any compensation.

20. I want to see justice done. I think she suffered because somebody else was careless. They shouldn't have brought over infected blood from other countries. Adequate checks weren't undertaken. I fear that a government minister somewhere may have been reckless in their decision-making.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

1 December 2021