

Witness Name: Nicol Scott
Statement No.: WITN6612001
Exhibits: None
Dated: 5 October 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF NICOL SCOTT

I Nicol Scott, make this statement to assist the Infected Blood Inquiry in relation to its investigations arising out of the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of my father, Ronald Scott.

Section 1: Introduction

1. My Father, Ronald Scott was born GRO-C 1943 in Edinburgh. He, his older brother and cousin all had severe Haemophilia A as his mother and aunt were both carriers. His brother died in mid childhood after suffering a severe gastric bleed.
2. My father died on 11 March 1993, GRO-C after his 50th Birthday as a direct result of receiving contaminated blood products which he took as treatment for his Haemophilia.

Section 2: How Affected

3. My father was home schooled until the age of 13. He then attended Edinburgh Royal High School, Edinburgh University, and Newcastle University.
4. After University he joined ICL as a computer programmer and moved to London. In 1969, he slipped on an icy pavement and spent several weeks

in hospital where he met my mother, Barbara Scott (nee Knagg). They married the following year. For ease of reference, my mother has prepared and submitted her own statement which can be found under statement no. WITN1020.

5. In 1975 my sister Katherine (Katie) was born in London before they all moved back to Edinburgh. In 1977 my father became very jaundiced and unwell. He was diagnosed with Hepatitis Non A non B. My mother says she was not given much explanation at the time of how this occurred.
6. I was born in Edinburgh in 1976 and my brother (Dougal Scott) was born in 1981. We moved back to London in 1983.
7. In 1984, after returning from St Thomas' hospital to collect Factor VIII, he told my mother that a nurse had just told him that he was HIV +.
8. It would appear that he became infected with HIV infection whilst receiving Factor VIII concentrate replacement therapy from St. Thomas's Hospital.
9. Apparently his sero-conversion occurred between 4/3/1983 and 20/12/1983.
10. My parents were stunned, confused, and fearful about transmission and deliberate disclosure of his condition, but dealt with it, and all the rest that life was throwing at them, by themselves.
11. His deterioration began in 1991. After attending an interview for 6th form at Pimlico school, my dad drove me home. On the way he almost crashed into a bus as he became disorientated. He went into hospital and the next day we, my brother and sister and I went to see him. My parents managed to break the news to us individually, the news they had kept to themselves since 1984, that he was HIV positive and that this had occurred because he had received contaminated blood products. The good news was that they had been very careful and my Mum had not contracted HIV.
12. This was categorically the beginning of the worst time in my life.

13. Later that year he had a biopsy on his tongue to remove an abnormal growth. This was extremely painful for him and couldn't eat properly. He began to lose weight.
14. On holiday in 1992 he had a fit on holiday which prompted a scan upon return, the findings indicated some severe changes to his brain. He had to stop driving immediately but continued to work. My mother persuaded him to stop work at Christmas 1992. He was no longer himself, struggled to find the right words when speaking and it was confirmed that he had Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy, or I guess as it was described to me at the time as HIV induced dementia.
15. There was a rapid deterioration thereafter, that we witnessed on a daily basis. He ended up in bed for the last couple of weeks, he was there but not there.
16. He died at home on 11th March 1993, GRO-C after his 50th birthday.
17. It's tricky to know what to say about the rest other than every important life event, birthdays, Christmas, a level results, graduation, holidays, weddings, children all occurred without him.
18. The worst bits were firstly, accepting that his death was imminent, and secondly seeing my mum, sister, little brother and grandfather (my dad's father) in pain – or not as we try to hold it in and not upset one and other.
19. At the time, my grandfather was basically living with us as his wife had died the previous year and he never recovered from the losses.

Section 3: Other Infections

N/A

Section 4: Consent

20. To my knowledge, my mother was not given much explanation or any information.

Section 5: Impact

21. The loss of our father was completely devastating for me and my brother and sister. As it was for my paternal grandfather and of course my Mother. During the last year of his life, as he rapidly deteriorated, remains the most awful time of my life. Witnessing his illness and death, as well as the pain it caused our family will always remain and at the time was truly unbearable.

22. The fact that this happened due to receiving contaminated blood products from the NHS, added an additional layer of confusion, shock and numbness. It seemed impossible to comprehend how such failings could be made in the first place. Disclosures over the subsequent decades have brought into sharp relief how avoidable this tragedy could have been. Moreover, the inadequate actions of all UK governments to bring justice and compensation to victims and their families is a source of pain.

23. Naturally, I have missed him everyday. This is felt more acutely on special occasions and significant life events, the arrival of my own children for example.

Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support

24. In 1977 my dad became very jaundiced and unwell. He was diagnosed with Hepatitis Non A Non B. My mother says she was not given much explanation at the time of how this occurred and no support was offered to get us through this time.

25. I did not seek any therapy or counselling, while those bottled up feelings and emotions come to the surface from time to time, my coping mechanism is get on with things.

Section 7: Financial Assistance

26. I believe my mother received a meagre compensation in the 1990's.

27. My mother was left to support children in full-time education with very limited support from the McFarland Trust.

Section 8: Other Issues

28. I will never find the words to adequately describe the terrible tragedy of my fathers' premature death and how profoundly it has affected our family as a whole. Every important life event (birthdays, Christmas, A-level results, graduation, holidays, weddings, having children) all occurred in his absence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Nicol Scott

Dated 5/10/2021