

Witness Name: Marian Sadri

Statement No.: **WITN0460001**

Exhibits: **WITN0460002**

Dated: 04/04/2019

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARIAN SADRI**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 28 January 2019.

I, Marian Sadri, will say as follows: -

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

1. My name is Marian Sadri. My date of birth is GRO-C 1954. My address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about my brother Patrick Joseph Kitterick ('Pat'). In particular, the nature of Pat's illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.

#### **Section 2. How Affected**

2. Pat was my elder brother (five years older) and he lived at home before and after university. In his teenage years he enjoyed playing football and travelling, when he graduated from university he worked for several different companies before becoming self-employed in the early 70s

and managing his own business. My brother was extremely successful in his business and worked hard to achieve his goals in life.

3. We were a close family and with my two sisters living overseas I became close to my brother.
4. I was 19 or 20 at the time Pat became ill and I can only remember very vaguely. I remember when he first became ill. Pat had been on holiday I think to Tunisia or Spain. When he returned home he became ill and initially he was treated for yellow jaundice.
5. Pat had flu like symptoms that progressively got worse. He was still working when he felt able to. Living his life as normally as possible between bouts of illness.
6. My brother received blood transfusions. I don't think he received transfusions as soon as he became ill, I think he received transfusions about a year later, in 1975 or 1976.
7. Pat was treated at University Hospital Coventry (previously known as Walsgrave General Hospital – Coventry). His consultant at the hospital was a Dr R. F. Gunstone who prescribed all his medication and, presumably, authorised his blood transfusions. Pat was also admitted to Warwick Hospital for treatment when he was first ill.
8. Primarily Pat received blood transfusions whilst in Walsgrave Hospital (now University Hospital Coventry). Often, he was admitted in a state of collapse, on these occasions he was non-receptive, delirious and practically in a coma. At no time was advice provided to either myself, my brother or any member of the family that there was any risk of being exposed to infection.
9. Pat's illness progressively got worse and later, a year or so later, he was diagnosed with Hepatitis. He had chronic Hepatitis. I think it was Hepatitis C. This was in late 1975 or early 1976, after he'd been ill for

a while and after he had been treated at hospital and had received blood transfusions.

10. Not being a medical person, I can only assume that my brother was infected with Hepatitis from the blood transfusions. I wouldn't have known about this at the time. I was 20 at the time and had no information about medical indications. But reading about blood and the risk of infection after I believe he was infected with Hepatitis after he was first ill. He didn't have Hepatitis at the beginning.
11. Pat was living a normal a life as he possibly could. It was only after he had bad periods of illness and he was given transfusions that the relapses and long time it took to recover from those periods of illness became more frequent.
12. I don't know the exact time when Pat found out he was infected with Hepatitis C. He had great faith in his consultant. He met with him often and I can only assume it was on one of those occasions that he was told.
13. I believe Pat would have been given information about the infection from his own consultant. I recall that the Consultant Dr R. F. Gunstone and the medical staff provided information to my brother only about the infection. Pat told us all about the infection and he would have told us roughly when it was he was first told. I think it might have been late 1975 or early 1976 that he told us. The illness he had been suffering from had been given a name, before that we weren't sure what he had.
14. I have been asked if adequate information was provided to understand and manage the infection. I recall that the medical staff provided information to my brother only on diet and lifestyle in an effort to manage the infection.
15. Information should have been provided earlier, as soon as his condition was diagnosed.

16. I do not have any views about how the results of tests were communicated to my brother, they were not communicated to me at all.
17. We were not given any information about the risk of infection to others.

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

18. I am unaware of any other infection my brother may have received as a result of being given infected blood products.

### **Section 4. Consent**

19. I do not believe Pat was treated or tested without his knowledge.
20. I do not believe Pat was treated or tested without his consent.
21. I do believe Pat was not given adequate or full information, given that blood transfusions carried a risk of infection.
22. I do not believe Pat was treated or tested for the purposes of research.

### **Section 5. Impact**

23. Prior to contracting Hepatitis my brother was an able bodied, successful business man.
24. The physical effects of his illness were painful, debilitating and exhausting. Ultimately this led to him being unable to work or indeed function socially.
25. Pat became ill in the mid 70s but continued to try and live as normal a life as possible, continuing to work, although this was sporadic as he so often became unwell and required treatment.

26. Throughout the six years leading up to his death in July 1980 he had short periods of reasonable health, never good health. He initially responded to certain treatments, but progressively became worse after each relapse. Mentally, Pat battled with his efforts to live as he wished to, and on occasion did suffer bouts of fatigue and low spirits.
27. In addition, Pat suffered with ulcerative colitis which further weakened his ability to manage as normal a life as possible. Further medical complications/conditions resulting from the infection were liver failure.
28. His stomach was always distended, he was yellow. The times he was having blood transfusions he couldn't say anything and couldn't move. When he was discharged he looked better but he was never fully better.
29. My brother became ill in the mid 70s and died on 12 July 1980, aged 30. Pat was engaged and due to be married in July 1980. He died a week before his wedding.
30. The treatment Pat was given for hepatitis included steroid tablets, injections and blood transfusions. Blood transfusions were given throughout the period of my brother's illness, to July 1980, the year of his death. Apart from blood transfusions Pat was often given steroid treatments and suffered bloating, hair loss, bleeding from his mouth, vomiting large volumes of blood, delirium and loss of appetite.
31. I am unaware of any difficulties or obstacles in accessing these treatments.
32. At the time I was unaware of any treatments which ought to have been made available to Pat.
33. Physically Pat's treatments resulted in hair loss, bloating, fluid retention and always a distended stomach. My brother's skin always had a yellow colour to it, irrespective of whether he was in a reasonable state of health or not. All of the above had an adverse effect on his mental

wellbeing and he often experienced bouts of low spirits, particularly as his condition got progressively worse.

34. I am unable to recall precisely whether Pat's infected status impacted upon his treatment or medical care for any other conditions. But I do remember that his infected status did impact on his dental care. Often, he would bleed from his mouth and his pillow cases would be bloodstained in the mornings. As far as I'm aware he didn't have any difficulty getting treatment. Pat never said he couldn't get an appointment or anything. His teeth didn't fall out or anything like that, he had all of his teeth.
35. My brother loved his life. He was, as I have said, successful in almost everything he set out to do, only his illness prevented him from achieving his goals. For someone who was always confident in his own ability the impact of the infection was ever present, and obviously threatened his life.
36. While Pat attended all his appointments, and had great respect for his Consultant and the rest of the medical staff, he was nonetheless a reluctant patient and the many occasions it was necessary for him to remain in hospital frustrated and upset him.
37. Pat managed service stations at the time he became ill. He was employed by Esso but he leased the garages from them so he was self-employed. His work was sporadic when he became ill. Sometimes he could work and sometimes he couldn't. He worked for a company called Brown Brothers before Esso and sometimes he would have time off working with them because he was ill.
38. Pat was clever, he did earn good money when he was working so he didn't have any financial difficulties because of his illness. Pat didn't have a mortgage to pay and wasn't married, he was in his late 20s. Had he had to pay a mortgage then there would have been a financial effect but there wasn't because he was single.

39. For someone who always prided himself on being able to manage everything for himself, he felt frustrated, and at times angry, about his illness and how it affected those close to him.
40. Pat did his best to ensure it curtailed his social life as little as possible, but it did mean he was unable to do many of the things he enjoyed. The possibility of becoming unwell was too grave a risk, and latterly he just did not have the energy to carry on as normal. He was unable to interact socially as his relapses became more frequent, his resilience became weaker, and eventually he was too ill to live a normal life.
41. I was in my early twenties during this time. Pat died when I was 25. I was married in 1978. My husband and I first lived together in London. Pat moved to London in the late 70s and stayed with myself and my husband for a time. My husband would take Pat to Coventry (University Hospital) for treatment for the hepatitis when he became ill.
42. There were occasions when most of my time seemed to be spent in hospitals. I worked for British Telecom in Coventry at the time. I did have some time off to look after Pat but it didn't affect me financially.
43. My parents were in their sixties and obviously found it extremely difficult to observe and deal with their son's illness. It devastated them and so it became, in large part, the responsibility of myself and my other brother, Michael, to protect them from the worst aspects of Pat's illnesses.
44. There were many occasions when it seemed that he would not survive yet another relapse, and the weeks of constant worry and the emotional and mental stress affected the whole family.
45. Both my sisters were living overseas at the time and so felt very concerned that they were unable to support and spend time with their brother during his illness.

46. My mother and father were devastated throughout the years of his illness and never really recovered from his early death. My mother, in particular, could not move on in life and in her early 70s GRO-C  
GRO-C I do believe that the years of constant stress and worry during my brother's long illness contributed to her condition.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

47. I do not recall there ever being a difficulty or obstacle in Pat obtaining treatment or care once he had been admitted to hospital. However, no counselling was ever suggested or psychological support ever made available to me or my brother.

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

48. No financial assistance was ever suggested, discussed or indeed made available. Pat never found out that financial assistance was available to him and never made an application for financial assistance. My brother never received any payment. I can only assume that financial assistance did not exist during the period of my brother's illness.
49. No financial assistance has ever been applied for, or received from any trust or fund by me or my family.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

50. I produce as an exhibit (**WITN0288002**) a letter from one of Pat's consultants following his death.
51. There are no other issues, or further evidence that I consider relevant to the Inquiry's investigation.



### Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 4 April 2019