

Witness Name: Carole Patricia Ann Betts

Statement No: **WITN0473006**

Exhibits: **WITN0473007-010**

Dated: 15 April 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CAROLE PATRICIA ANN BETTS

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 29 March 2019

I, Carole Patricia Ann Betts, will say as follows: -

1. I make this statement in addition to my statement of 29 May 2019 to add additional information, to make minor amendments and for the purpose of exhibiting further documents received after I signed my first statement.
2. In this regard: -
 - a) Paragraph 24 states that my father died of alcoholism, I would like to clarify that he died of acute ethanol poisoning, this was as a result of a number of traumatic events he witnessed and experienced.
 - b) In paragraph 25 I describe how a junior nurse had no idea what to do with John's Factor VIII. I would like to add that my son had to show her how to prepare the Factor VIII.

- c) In paragraph 27 I state that John was interviewed by Sian Edwards. She was a support nurse at St Thomas' Hospital. This was in relation to the Haemophilia and HIV Life History Project funded by the Heritage Lottery.
- d) In paragraph 28, I mentioned how John left his HIV card on the table and Mum saw it. I would like to add that it was not left there on purpose and Mum did not talk about it to prevent upsetting him.
- e) At paragraph 45, I refer to Dr [GRO-D]. She was the Haematologist Consultant at Eastbourne District General Hospital. It would seem from John's interview with Sian Edwards, that Dr [GRO-D] did not provide any information in relation to his HIV infection. She did not offer any counselling and did not provide John with any brochures or information leaflets. He describes being in the same situation as he was before he went for the appointment, but comments that she confirmed the diagnosis in the best way that she could.
- f) I stated in paragraph 53 that John stayed in Eastbourne General Hospital until he passed away. I would go and look after him in hospital. Initially I visited him daily after work, but during the last few weeks of his life I stayed with him at the hospital.
- g) I would like to add to paragraph 55 that after 5 weeks, I was thinking of the worst and the hospital allowed us to take his pet dog in to visit him.
- h) I would like to add to my statement that I used to go around to John's house and look after him when he was poorly, make him comfortable, do the housework and look after his pet dog. Sometimes his Factor VIII was not always delivered on time, or they had run out of supply at Eastbourne General Hospital, so when John was at work, I would wait at his house for the delivery.
- i) I mentioned in paragraph 15 of my statement that the education authority wanted John to go to a special needs school – this was the Downs Special Needs School, Beachy Road, Eastbourne. However, my parents decided against this and John attended a normal school.

- j) I would like to add further information about how my brother found out he was HCV positive, which I refer to in paragraph 48 of my initial statement. In his interview with Sian Edwards, he recalls finding out about his HCV infection in 2000. He mentions asking one of the community sisters about HCV and his diagnosis was later confirmed when he went to St Thomas' Hospital.
- k) My brother also stated during his interview that the HCV seemed to be causing more medical issues than the HIV – he makes particular reference to back pain which his doctor thought was to do with his liver, as the results were not as good as they had been the previous year. He also mentions his liver being tested and monitored more frequently.
- l) At paragraph 48 of my statement, I explain how I accidentally told someone at work about John's HCV infection without realising the severity of the illness. I then had to backtrack and inform my colleague that I had the wrong information. I worked at a dental practice, where John also worked. I do not think the person told anyone else and we never experienced any stigma as a result. Everyone knew John was a haemophiliac and was very good towards him. When John took early retirement because of his ill health, everyone was very thoughtful and would always ask after him.
- m) In relation to paragraph 86 and financial assistance, I would like to add that after John passed away, I made an application to Skipton for a Stage 2 payment. This was refused on the basis that there was no indication that his illness qualified for the payment. I spoke to John's GP, Dr GRO-D but he did not want to know, despite John being a patient at the practice since 1966.
- n) I was very close to my brother and he treated my children as if they were his own. We went on holiday together and he would regularly come over for dinner.
- o) John started AZT the day we went on holiday, but I do not know any more about the trial. He was very secretive – if I asked him any questions he would say 'I'll tell you later'.

p) I requested copies of my brother's medical records from the National Haemophilia Database. I received a letter from them (date as postmarked) to state that as a result of a look back exercise in relation to the Infected Blood Inquiry, additional papers containing further details were identified. I exhibit this letter as **WITN0473007**. I received the following documents, as a result of the lookback and would like to exhibit them within my statement

- i) Details of Haemophilia patients treated during 1975 at Eastbourne District General Hospital. Exhibited as **WITN0473008**.
- ii) UK Haemophilia Centre Directors' Survey of Patients HIV Infection. Exhibited as **WITN0473009**.
- iii) UK HCDO HIV Working Party AIDS Surveillance and HIV Death Clinical Report Form. Exhibited as **WITN0473010**.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **GRO-C**

Dated 15.04.21.