Witness Name: Fiona Elizabeth McTeare
Statement No.: WITN1044001
Exhibits: WITN1044002- WITN1044006
Dated: April 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF FIONA ELIZABETH MCTEARE

1. I, Fiona Elizabeth McTeare will say as follows:

Section 1: Introduction

2. My name is Fiona Elizabeth McTeare, née Wilson. My address is GRO-C GRO-C Wiltshire GRO-C and my date of birth is GRO-C 1964. I am married to Stuart and we have two daughters and a son. My son has Severe haemophilia A.

3. I am providing this statement in relation to my brother, Jonathan Mark Wilson, who had Severe Haemophilia A and died of HIV and Hepatitis related illnesses having been treated with infected blood products.

Section 2: How Affected

4. Jonathan was born on GRO-C 1961 and was three years older than me. He was my only sibling. My parents found out he had haemophilia when he was two and a half years old. He had had bruises before then but was diagnosed in hospital after he fell off a slide in the park and had a puncture wound which would not stop bleeding. Dr Elderkin said to my mum that she should not have any more children but she was already pregnant with me.

5. Jonathan was a wonderful brother and we had a good childhood in the Lake District but he always had a bad elbow or a bad knee and was restricted by this. I always knew that he had haemophilia.

6. He went to infant and junior school in our local town but did not sit the 11 plus exam. Mum and dad chose to send him to a private GRO-C School and he was there until he sat his GCSE's. He then went to the local grammar school for his A levels. He used to skip lessons and copy friend's essays. He thought, "*I have haemophilia, and I am not going to live that long anyway.*"

7. Initially, I do not think he had any treatment and remember him lying with bandages or ice when he had a bleed. When he was around 11 or 12 it was offered that Jonathan could attend Carlisle Infirmary for treatment with Cryoprecipitate. I remember that I used to go to ballet classes on a Saturday and then we would go to Carlisle afterwards so that Jonathan could receive treatment. I would stay in the car with dad and Jonathan would go in with mum. They would be in the hospital for a long time. In my mind Cryoprecipitate was a good thing as it made him feel better.

8. When he was about 15 or 16, he grew out of Carlisle Infirmary and began attending Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary ("NRVI"), where he was under the care of Dr Peter Jones. At this time, he began prophylaxis home treatment. Maureen Fern, practice nurse, taught him what to do. Peter Jones said that there were no risks. My mum has said she knew in her heart she should not agree to this course of treatment, she felt it was wrong, but Peter Jones sold it to her by saying it would allow Jonathan to have as near to a normal life as possible. Doctor's back then, were not to be questioned. Jonathan was treated with Cutter Factor VIII.

9. Jonathan would bring the products home from Newcastle and would keep them in his bedroom. He had a Calor gas heater in his room and would turn that on

and give himself the injection. I cannot remember how often he did this. He liked company while doing it and I would sit with him.

10. He went to university in Manchester in the late 1970s/early 1980s to study land management and auctioneering. Mum got calls from lecturers to say that he was not going to lectures. She asked him about it and he said he felt too unwell to go. He pulled out of university and came home; he did not finish his degree. I would have been about 18 or 19, he would have been about 21 or 22 when he came home. He was always off colour at this stage.

11. Jonathan would attend the NRVI every three months. On one occasion when he was telling them how he felt they said to him, "*are you sure it's not all in your mind*?" He had sore throats and swollen glands.

12. In 1985 my parents told me that he was ill and was not going to get better, I think he'd been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, which at that point was a death sentence. He still had sore throats, swollen ankles and needed to have a nap in the afternoons at work. He was really ill and life was an effort for him. Dad used to take him to some auctions as he was unable to drive some days.

13. My parents owned a steakhouse and in the winter of 1984/1985 they bought another property, to support Jonathan. He was interested in antiques so it had an antique shop on one side, which he ran, and I opened a tea room on the other side.

14. In 1985 he was diagnosed with HIV at Newcastle. I do not know whether he was told he had HIV or AIDS; back then it amounted to same thing. The family was given no information about the infection risk or how to manage it or for that matter anything else about his illness.

Section 3: Other infections

15. I do not think Jonathan was ever diagnosed with Hepatitis in any form; it was never talked about. However, he was severely jaundiced at the end of his life so it was clear in hindsight that he did have Hepatitis, we should have been told.

Section 4: Consent

16. I did not get involved with Jonathan's hospital appointments but I do not think he knew that he was being tested for HIV/AIDS. Jonathan attended a routine appointment and when he came back he said to my parents, "*it's not good news*".

Section 5: Impact

Decline of Jonathan's health following diagnosis

17. Jonathan was given Interferon leading up to or upon his diagnosis and mum said that this finished him. Mum went to see him in hospital (NRVI) and he was in such pain and was swollen; she does not know how she left him there.

18. In late 1985 or early 1986, my parents sold their steakhouse, to be available to help with Jonathan's illness and to withdraw from the public eye in our small town, the hoodoo of AIDS was at its height. I was running the Tea Shop at the time which was great fun but Jonathan's treatment was like a cloud hanging over us all the time, it had a massive effect on our parents. Jonathan's health deteriorated and it was like he had cancer; he lost weight and became very down. He had a lovely girlfriend who stuck by him through it all, she was very lucky not to be infected.

19. He would go into hospital for blood transfusions which would make him feel better. In 1987 I was in York doing some cooking and I got a call from my mum to tell me Jonathan was in hospital. I asked when he would be coming out and my mum said that she did not think that he would be. Stuart came to meet me and we went to the NRVI.

20. When we got to the NRVI, my mum, dad, aunt and uncle were all there with Jonathan's girlfriend. Jonathan was at the end of a ward full of people, with no privacy. He was skin and bone and extremely yellow.

21. The nurses said to Stuart and I to take some cushions and go and lie down in a waiting room. We had just laid down and were talking when we were told to come back. We were all there when Jonathan died in the early hours of morning of GRO-C 1987, which was GRO-C that year. To see my brother pass away in such horrific circumstances was extremely traumatic, a life changing experience.

22. The death certificate does not mention HIV or AIDS I am not sure if my parents did not want it to (WITN1044002). They were so ashamed; AIDS had such a stigma at the time. The cause of death is listed as lymphoma, it also says haemophilia but my dad added an A. It has the wrong date of birth on it, he was born on GRO-C, not the GRO-C my dad's birthday.

23. The funeral was held on April Fool's day which Jonathan would have found symbolic.

Stigma

24. After Jonathan's diagnosis, we did not dare mention HIV or AIDS to anyone as we lived in a small town. When he was unwell, we would say anything to avoid mentioning it. I remember telling someone that he had an enlarged spleen on one occasion. We knew a gay couple in the town who died from HIV/AIDS and the stigma was huge.

25. We had a new GP in 1973, Dr GRO-D, he did not want to know anything about Jonathan having HIV. He was not supportive at all.

26. My mum lost faith in The Haemophilia Society, she felt she was badly advised but she could talk to dad and she had some close friends she could talk to but people did not understand.

27. It has only been since the Inquiry has come to fore that people are beginning to understand what happened. It is only now that I can talk about it as I have nothing to be ashamed of, I want people to know about it but my mother is still very bitter, she does not really want to engage with the Inquiry.

Impact on my parents

28. For any person to lose a child it is devastating, but to lose Jonathan in this way was incredibly hard. My mum feels guilty for letting Jonathan have the Factor VIII treatment but she feels she was bullied into it.

29. Jonathan and my husband, Stuart, were the same age and my mum has always found it difficult because Stuart is here and her son is not. Mum is 83 now and is still very sad. Dad died 12 years ago, he was 10 years older than mum, he died a very sad man, they both felt as if their lives were robbed.

Impact on me

30. From day one, my life was always held back a bit as Jonathan was my parents' priority due to him having haemophilia. I would have to be taken out of school if Jonathan needed treatment because Carlisle Infirmary was GRO-C away from our home. When I finished school having not got the grades to go to university my parents sent me to Oxford to do a cordon bleu cooking course, there was always something going on at home with Jonathan's illness. I then went to York to do a diploma in home economics. I met Stuart in 1985.

31. As discussed above, my parents bought the property to support Jonathan, and I ran the tearoom in it. We closed the business when Jonathan was still alive in 1987 but did not sell the property until after he passed away. This left me without

a job but I got work cooking in a local nursing home for a year or two. With the sale of the property my parents took early retirement and they completely withdrew from life in the town.

32. Stuart and I bought a house after Jonathan died and got married in 1991 we thought my parents would be delighted but they never were, it was an extremely tough time for everyone.

33. When Jonathan died my dad, more so than my mum, felt that it was time for my life to begin. I feel my life could have been so different if Jonathan had not been so unwell and the impact of his passing on my life has been huge, for years I felt my life was on hold.

34. Stuart and I decided to move to Ireland in 1989 having been offered jobs there. My mum was heartbroken as her son had died and now her daughter was going away. We planned to go for a year or two but ended up staying for 10 years. Our first daughter was born in 1992 and as a result my mum said she started living again; it was the start of a new chapter.

35. I was never tested to find out whether I was a carrier of haemophilia; it would not have changed anything. When my son was born 1996, he was diagnosed at two days old with haemophilia A. There were problems with his treatment when he was younger but laterally life is not too bad for him. He has been able to live a relatively normal life. Mum says seeing the way he lives makes her feel that Jonathan did not die in vain. Compared to Jonathan, he has a great quality of life.

Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support

36. My parents and I have never been offered counselling as a result of what happened to Jonathan and I know nor was Jonathan offered any at the time. I think my parents would have not accepted any but I do think counselling could

have greatly helped me through some extremely difficult times. Siblings in this process aren't recognised, I have had no support at all.

37. Maureen Fern was a good support at the NRVI but Dr Peter Jones was not.

Section 7: Financial Assistance

38. My parents received £15,000 from the Macfarlane Trust after Jonathan died.

39. In March 2011 the NRVI wrote to my mum saying that she may be eligible for a Skipton Fund payment (WITN1044003). She did not want anything to do with it so signed the application process over to me.

40. I communicated with the NRVI in relation to this and John Hanley, Consultant Haematologist, confirmed that the application form I sent to them had been submitted to the Skipton Fund by letter dated 4 August 2011 (WITN1044004). Following this, I received a payment of £20,000. I then applied for the Stage 2 payment. I sent the form to the NRVI and John Hanley confirmed that it had been submitted to the Skipton Fund by letter dated 3 February 2012 (WITN1044005). This application was successful and I believe I received a further £50,000.

Section 8: Other Issues

41. It has been 33 years since Jonathan died; we have waited too long for the Inquiry to happen.

42. I would really like Dr Peter Jones to be exposed. There is a suggestion he was somehow gaining financially by pushing certain blood products. I would like at the very least for him to be stripped of his doctor title; that would be some sort of justice. I also want the likes of Kenneth Clark, politician, to be exposed and to know the real truth as to what happened. Why was my brother repeatedly treated with contaminated blood products?

43. I was extremely disappointed that the NRVI would not let me have Jonathan's medical records even though they saw fit to aid the Skipton Fund payments, they just ignored my requests. Eversheds Sutherland have now been able to gain access to Jonathan's records but I feel they are not complete, it would appear information is missing. What is eloquently expressed in these records though is Dr Peter Jones's lack of care and his total contempt for my brother and my family. I feel that it is important that the Inquiry has access to my brother's medical records so that these can be considered in conjunction with my witness statement. The records, as I have received them, are exhibited to this statement in their entirety as WITN104406.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed . **GRO-C**

Dated........29 April 2020........