

Witness Name: VICTORIA JAYNE BRYAN

Statement No: WITN1113001

Exhibits: WITN1113002-3

Dated: JANUARY 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF VICTORIA JAYNE BRYAN

I, Victoria Jayne Bryan, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Victoria Jayne Bryan. I was born on [GRO-C] 1956 and I live at [GRO-C]
[GRO-C], South Wales [GRO-C]
2. My late brother, Paul Anthony Bryan (born on [GRO-C] 1948) was, I believe, infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and/or the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). He died from liver failure on [GRO-C] 1985 at the age of 36.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to Paul's medical records. I refer to Exhibit **WITN1113002** being a letter dated 14th August 2015 from the Records Department at Cardiff University Hospital of Wales advising me that Paul's records are 'no longer available'. The letter arrived just 14 days after I was provided with a password and informed the records would be provided, copied onto a CD disc.

Section 2. How Affected

4. Paul had a mild bleeding disorder. I believe Paul was diagnosed with the bleeding disorder in or around 1970. Paul was treated at Heath Hospital Cardiff, South Wales under the care of Professor Bloom.
5. As a much younger sister I was not privy to the precise nature of Paul's bleeding disorder at that time. My parents are no longer alive. I have not been able to obtain any information about the disorder and the treatment Paul received from the hospital. Paul told me, before his death, that he had been given Factor VIII (FVIII) on many occasions.
6. Paul was a Geologist by occupation. He worked for an oil company and had a lot of work related travelling to do. From 1980 to 1984, I was living and working in Australia. When I left for Australia he appeared to me to be in good health. In retrospect, he may have been suffering with fatigue as he was at that time studying accountancy to negate the travelling he had to do for work.
7. Paul's health took a serious downturn whilst I was away in Australia. He became very sick. He was in and out of hospital and had a number of blood transfusions. I remember visiting Paul in hospital on a return visit from Australia in 1982. None of the medical staff seemed to be able to tell us what was wrong with Paul. I found the doctors and nurses to be somewhat evasive. Although subsequently omitted from Paul's death certificate as a cause of death, I suspect he had an HIV and/or HCV positive diagnosis. Paul may or may not have been informed of the diagnosis. If he knew he was HIV positive he would not have told me for fear of worrying me but I recall Paul specifically telling me during that visit that they had treated him with Factor VIII. That information seemed to hold some significance.
8. I do not believe Paul was told of the risk of infections before initially being treated with FVIII. His bleeding disorder was not considered to be life threatening and did not warrant Paul taking that unnecessary risk.

9. Paul's health further deteriorated when I went back to Australia. He had a brain haemorrhage and lost his ability to walk and his sight in one eye. My mother kept a diary record of Paul's health issues at that time. The diary helped my mother through what was a traumatic time for Paul and my parents. My mother nursed Paul at home.

10. When Paul died the year after I returned from Australia in 1985. He had lost so much weight. He was rushed to hospital in what I would describe as 'flashing blue light' conditions. He was given so many blood transfusions that they struggled to find a vein and had to transfuse blood into his feet. Right up until the end we were given conflicting information by the medical team. I recall one particular doctor suggesting leukemia to us. The primary cause of Paul's death on his Death Certificate was attributed to liver failure. He was not even a 'drinker'. I refer to **Exhibit WITN1113003** being a copy of Paul's Death Certificate. Autoimmune haemolytic anaemia (AIHA) at 1c is the probable identify of the mild but rare (and treatable) bleeding disorder Paul had been diagnosed with in or around 1970.

Section 3. Other Infections

11. I am not sure if Paul received any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

12. I do not know if Paul was treated or tested without his knowledge, consent or without being given adequate or full information.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

13. When Paul died my parents were devastated and very confused about the cause of Paul's death. At that time HIV/AIDS was a very frightening infection to contract and there was a great deal of stigma associated with it. No-one in

our family wanted to openly speculate that Paul had HIV. Paul was divorced in the late 1970s. I always thought he and his wife were happy but I now wonder if he knew that he was infected and did not want to infect his wife. The uncertainty over the cause of Paul's death has affected me to the extent that I worried for years about my health and the health of my son (born the year after Paul died). The emotional pain I feel about the premature death of a much loved brother is with me all the time. I found Christmas very hard again this year.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

14. I do not know if Paul faced any difficulties or obstacles obtaining treatment.

15. I do not know if counselling was ever made available to Paul as a consequence of what happened.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

16. I am not aware of any financial assistance made available to Paul. I do not know about any of the Trust Funds set up to distribute payments.

Section 8. Other Issues

17. There are no other issues except for the apparent non-availability of Paul's medical notes.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

18. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this Statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I would be willing to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

GRO-C

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

14th Jan 2019