

Witness Name: Shelagh Margaret Garrigan

Statement No: WITNXXXX001

Exhibits: WITNXXXX002

Dated: 13th April, 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN1229002

David's Story

I was born a Haemophiliac in 1961. The future for your son is very bleak! You must accept that he could bleed to death at any time.

He can harm himself, even in bed from the pressure of a pyjama button, that pressure will turn a small bruise into an uncontrolled haemorrhage until the whole arm or leg is swollen out of recognition.

So this was the situation, I was never allowed to play sports or even go into the school Playground.

Living 100 miles from the nearest hospital always meant long stays away from home. This is how it was until at the age of 16 all my prayers had been answered.

Factor V111 had arrived

No more hospitalization or evenings alone. Freedom!

So I therefore put all my efforts into my career as a hairdresser. In 1986 I was about to enter a partnership in my own business, at last I could prove my worth.

At that time I became ill and as diagnosed as Full Blown Aids and developed Pneumonia. The drug that gave me a 'normal life' was now killing me. I had Aids.

I was shocked and devastated. I expected to be HIV positive, but this was too much.

I knew then that my career and any relationships I had were over!

Having Aids in 1986 left me feeling alone and vulnerable with no cure or treatment.

Life was like a game of snakes and ladders. I had resorted to where I started from as a young boy.

Friends smiled and were never seen again.

Laying in hospital I decided that to survive for as long as possible I needed a game plan, The fight was on.

The first thing to do was to recover and return home. As soon as I was strong enough To exercise I started a health regime, which included a good diet. Moving my arthritic Joints was painful but through injecting Factor V111, I built up my strength, after all what harm could it do now?

At the beginning I weighed 6 ½ stone, 18 months later I weighed 9 ½ stone.

I exercised by doing, Body Building, Cycling and Walking.

Everytime I was ill and lost weight, when well enough I built myself up again.

It was all very frustrating, but I've fought for 27 years so I'm not going to give in now.

I realise that I could die at any time, but I refuse to die. I don't know what the future holds, but I do know that I refuse to give in and die!

David Freeman

After a long battle against the disease, David sadly died on the 30th July 1989.

David was the most wonderful person who showed tremendous courage and Fighting spirit.

Life will never be the same without him.

Shelagh Garrigan (Sister to David)