

Witness Name: Daniel Boyle

Statement No.: WITN0172001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DANIEL BOYLE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 26 June 2019.

I, Daniel Boyle, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Daniel Boyle. My date of birth is GRO-C 1944 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I was infected with Hepatitis C through a blood transfusion. My wife, Myra is with me today to help with my memory. She was born GRO-C 1948 and we were married in 1983.
2. I intend to speak about the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment received and the impact it had on our lives together.

Section 2. How Infected

3. I had pretty good health before I was infected with Hepatitis C. I was working in a local ice rink. I would help prepare the ice for hurling and ice skating. But I was a heavy drinker and I drank most days. Thankfully I am now 23 years sober.
4. In the late 1970s I went to Hairmyres Hospital because I was suffering from severe stomach pain. I ended up having an operation for a perforated ulcer.
5. This is where I got a blood transfusion. There was no warning. There was no consent given about getting a blood transfusion. I didn't give any consent. They just did the transfusion during the operation. I started to feel unwell after the operation, and I was in the hospital for 8 days.
6. I eventually left the hospital and carried on with life and went back to work.
7. But I ended up going into hospital a few years later. In the mid 70s I had broken my right knee cap. But I didn't know I had broken it back then. I have been suffering with leg issues ever since.
8. In 1983 I was in a lot of pain. I had to go into hospital again as I still had issues with my right knee cap. The doctors looked at my leg and my bone was charcoal grey and they didn't know why. The pain was so bad the doctor wanted to amputate. The doctors put magnets in my leg as they were trying to fix the pain. I didn't realise I had broken my knee cap a few years prior. The damage was pretty bad.

9. When I was in the hospital a doctor came into my room and asked what treatment I was having for my cancer. The doctor said, 'what cancer do you have?' But I said 'I don't have cancer'. The doctor left my room and checked with another doctor and realised he was in the wrong room.
10. When I was in Stonehouse Hospital, I don't know why but they tested me for Hepatitis C. I had no symptoms and I had never heard of Hepatitis C.
11. Myra, my wife, was with me and we were asked into a room and the doctor told us that I had Hepatitis C. We didn't know what it was. An Asian doctor just said "you have Hepatitis C" and gave the inclination that it was not good. I said "I have never heard of Hepatitis C". I didn't realise how bad Hepatitis C was. I was given no literature. No referral. No information. No information about infecting my wife.
12. My wife GRO-C
There was no follow up from Stonehouse Hospital.
13. After Stonehouse Hospital, I moved to Monklands Hospital. They did everything for me. At Monklands the medical staff tried to actually explain the virus. Dr Todd was the main man for Hepatitis C. Dr Todd said "it's to do with the blood. It attacks your liver". He tried to explain it to me. I went in for tests on my liver and to see how it was going. He was a good doctor.

Section 3. Other Infections

14. There was no other Hepatitis infection mentioned, it was always referred to as Hepatitis C.
15. I have no tattoos and I have had no other transfusions.

16. I have suffered with Cancer in my leg. I have had an operation on my leg for this. I still have issues with walking and simple tasks. But the cancer has gone.

Section 4. Consent

17. As previously stated, I never gave consent to having a blood transfusion for my operation on the perforated ulcer.

18. I did not give consent for Stonehouse Hospital to test my blood for Hepatitis C.

Section 5. Impact

Treatment

19. After some tests at Monklands Hospital, I got a letter through the post saying I needed to start treatment. I was put on Interferon a few weeks after being told I had Hepatitis C.

20. The treatment only slightly worked. The treatment was awful, I was bent over like an old man. I had treatment 3 times a week on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 1 year.

21. I was treated at Monklands Hospital. There was a nurse, who took over my case as it got so bad. The nurse, named Colin said to the Doctor, "look at the state he is in, he needs to stop, look how unwell he is".

22. It got worse after taking the medication, I knew each time I would take the medicine I would feel bad. The side effects were there all the time.

23. Me and Dr Todd became quite good friends. I was sick for so long. I would do anything to try to get rid of Hepatitis C. I was working at that time, but I eventually lost my job.
24. The second set of treatments were tablet form, these still didn't work. I didn't feel like myself, I was paranoid all the time. I don't know the name of these tablets.
25. I had no interest in anything, I was lifeless. I took the medication every day and I still was Hepatitis C positive.
26. It got so bad that I wanted to end it all. I had enough tablets to do it, but I spoke to Colin, who was my nurse and he said anytime you feel like that just call me. He gave me his private number. I'm glad I didn't go through with it but nothing was working.
27. I wasn't interested in anything or anybody. I just thought, what is the point? I was very low. I was not interested in life. The side effects of the tablets were much more severe than the injections.
28. I stayed in the house for 3 months, when I was on the tablets. I couldn't leave the house. I couldn't go to Church. So the church community would give me holy communion in the house. I wasn't fit to leave the house. I got a buzzer fitted in so the Church could come in easily. They saved me from dying. Some of the Church didn't think I would live. They came every day.
29. I had breaks between courses and treatments, and then the gap between the second and third treatment was quite a long time. But I still attended hospital. We had given up hope.

30. I got a call for a third treatment and I got asked if I would like to try them. I started the new tablets back in 2016. There were no side effects. It was a 12-week treatment. My doctor at this point was Dr Kennedy, and the treatment cleared the Hepatitis C. I call it the 'miracle drug'. I don't remember the name of the drug but it saved me.

Impact

31. I suffered greatly for the last number of decades. I had incredible sickness and terrible depression. It was very difficult, and I would have days at a time in bed.

32. I was heavily drinking. It was just so difficult. I tried to get help. I spoke to a psychologist and before I had Hepatitis C, I was on antidepressants. The psychologist I saw was very good. She helped me a lot to understand things. I saw her for a few months. But it was Hepatitis C that woke me up to the fact that the alcohol would kill me. I am now 23 years sober.

33. There were a few times I had to go into hospital for after my Hepatitis C diagnosis. Dr Todd would ask if I took drugs and I said "no". He said "well look at your friends". Dr Todd was telling me how drugs affect your liver and how I needed an ultrasound. He also advised me to stop drinking. He suggested this a lot, almost every day. Eventually it clicked one day. But it took a while.

34. I thankfully have no liver issues. My liver is fine. It's just my memory that is terrible. That's why my wife is here to help me recall events.

35. It took a huge toll on my relationship with my wife, we separated for some time. But thankfully we are still here today.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

36. I have had no counselling for my Hepatitis C diagnosis.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

37. I lost my job through being ill. I was working at the ice rink which was my last job. I finished there in the late 1990s. I don't think the Hepatitis C hurt my educational needs.

38. Currently, I am on a normal state pension. I didn't build up any pensions with the companies I worked for.

39. I read in the paper about the Skipton Fund. So, I decided to talk to a solicitor and the solicitors told me, "you don't need a solicitor, and the Fund will sort it out for you".

40. The Skipton Fund pays me weekly payments of £153. It is on the Scottish National system now. I got 20k from the Fund for my Hepatitis C and this meant I was able to pay my debts off. I got another 30k a few years later.

Section 8. Other Issues

41. I am happy with the treatment I received from the doctors as the third treatment cured me eventually.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 21-10-2020