

Witness Name: Geoffrey Stuart Trendall

Statement No.: WITN0790001

Exhibits: **WITN0790002-5**

Dated: 02 February 2019

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GEOFFREY STUART TRENDALL**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

I, Geoffrey Stuart TRENDALL, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is name is Geoffrey Stuart Trendall. I was born on GRO-C 1947, in Watford. I am a retired man living in Norway with my long-term partner Turid Thingvold, our dog and our 3 cats. I have no children.
2. I intend to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness has affected me, the treatment that I received and the impact it had on Turid and I, and our lives together.

## **Section 2. How Infected**

3. I have no tattoos, or piercings and have never taken intravenous drugs.
4. Sometime between 1996 and 1997, I started having hip and back troubles I thought it was sciatica, however I went to the doctors for an x-ray and was told that both of my hips had gone; there was no cartilage left. My father had bad hips, so perhaps this was hereditary.
5. I tried to arrange a hip replacement operation, but I struggled to obtain one. I went to see a doctor in Stavanger, South West Norway and he told me that I couldn't work until I had a hip replacement, however I carried on working. I like working.
6. I later got a letter from the Norwegian health authorities asking whether I would be willing to have the hip operation abroad. To tell you the truth, I was in so much pain that I would have had it done in anywhere.
7. I agreed to the operation, travel arrangements were made on my behalf and I flew to Aberdeen on 24 October 1997. The operation took place at Ross Hall Hospital in Glasgow on 26 October 1997. As both of my hips were bad, I was given the choice of which one I wanted replacing. I chose the right hip.
8. Prior to the operation, I consented to the procedure in writing. However, there was no mention that I may have to have a blood transfusion. Basically, all I was told was that I was going to have a hip replacement.
9. The surgeon made a very large incision across my right buttock. The cut was huge, 23 cm in length. You can still see the scar. They then tied up my entire leg in a big leather case. It was awful. I couldn't sleep and it was too tight. I asked them to remove the leather strapping; it was unbearable, they agreed as long as I promised not to move.
10. Turid flew out a week or so after I had the operation and stayed until I was ready to fly home. I was in hospital for a total of 14 days before flying back to Norway. The standard of cleanliness in the hospital was very poor, they had carpets on the floor, the hospital looked untidy, dishevelled.
11. Other orthopaedic surgeons have since seen my scar and said that they had never seen anything like it. It is very out of the ordinary.
12. I then needed my left hip replacing too. My medical notes were sent to Hospitals in Germany, Denmark and Sweden but none would operate. They said that I was too

- much of a high-risk patient due to some alleged problems with my heart, and the fear of me going into a liver coma. At that point in time I didn't have a bad heart.
13. A friend of mine then suggested that I have it done in Bangkok. I contacted Bangkok General Hospital and they said that they were quite happy to examine me, but wouldn't promise to operate, which I thought was extremely professional.
  14. I flew out to Bangkok in January 2002 and was picked up at the airport and taken to hospital. An x-ray of my hip showed that I had three tumours and I was told that I could lose my leg. I was also told to go away, lie on a beach and get a bit healthier and then return for the operation. I was overweight due to the lack of exercise I could take at the time.
  15. After a couple of weeks resting and getting as healthy as I could I returned to the hospital. I remember this like it was yesterday. It was 6.00pm and I was in a basement room. I had been given my pre med and I was lying down on a stretcher. I remember being pushed into an operating theatre thinking, "Geoffrey, what are you doing? You are in a hospital in South East Asia about to have a huge operation".
  16. A big smiley Thai doctor then told me that I was going to be given my first "cocktail of drugs" and I remember no more.
  17. The operation took 1 hour 45 minutes. This was much shorter than the operation in Scotland, which had taken nearly 4 hours. This time the scar was much smaller, tiny by comparison, and in a completely different place. I spent 10 days in hospital recovering and went back 2 weeks later to have the stitches taken out. It was a very successful operation; the treatment I received was very good.
  18. It was a bit of a shock that the hospital had been so good. I have since had several other things done in Bangkok, including cosmetic surgery on my eyes to replace the lens and reduce the bags.
  19. Going back, In March 1999 I became extremely ill. It was an illness that I had never experienced before. I didn't know what it was, and it lasted for maybe three days. Quite reluctantly I went to the doctors, to my GP. I had never had flu in my life, but that is what it was diagnosed as. The GP was irritated that I had come in. She said, "you have the flu, you don't come to the doctors with that, you stay away and stay in bed". Two or three days later it was gone and I was feeling fine.
  20. Then, in September 1999, it came back with vengeance. This is where I was extremely lucky, or unlucky depending on your point of view.

21. I came out of the shower and noticed red flecks on my shoulder and torso. They didn't hurt, but I wondered what they were. I went to the doctors again and showed her them. She pressed them and said, "ah, liver spots".
22. Blood tests were taken and I got a letter not too long after saying that I was negative for Hepatitis A and B. I didn't know what that was; I had no idea. I didn't even think it was dangerous. The letter also showed that I had been immunised against Hepatitis A and B in Saudi Arabia in 1996.
23. In December 1999 I got another letter from local Doctors surgery stating that my blood tests had come back and proved positive for antibodies to Hepatitis C, and that this meant that I either had or have Hepatitis C. The most interesting part is that it asked me to make arrangements to come into the surgery for further blood tests. I shouldn't have had to do this myself.
24. There was no information about what Hepatitis C was and I was not offered a consultation. I was offered no help or guidance about how to manage my infection.
25. The only lifestyle advice that I was given was to use a condom. This causes a problem. Hepatitis C is not a sexually transmitted disease, yet the only advice that I was given related to safe sex.
26. All I knew was that it was very difficult to contract Hepatitis C unless you were an intravenous drug user. I can't even look when I have blood tests; the idea of sticking a needle in my arm is not something I relish.
27. As I didn't really know what Hepatitis C was, I wasn't overly concerned at first. Then I went onto the Internet and started reading about it. The more I read, the more alarmed I became. I remember thinking that this is a life threatening illness, and all they [the doctors] have done is send me this letter.
28. I then found out that blood-to-blood contact was the only way of contracting it. It was a very short "process of elimination" to work out where and how an infected persons blood could have got into my blood stream. There was only one way that it could have, and that was Ross Hall during my hip replacement.
29. During my stay in Ross Hall, blood that was contaminated entered my blood stream. That is a fact. I am not sure how, but that is a fact. For me, it is not arguable; it is what happened.
30. A year before my first hip operation, I had been tested for Hepatitis C. It was listed on my application for a work permit in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. (KSA) I worked there from February to June 1996. If I had been positive or hadn't been tested, I

would never have secured a work permit. I tried to get written confirmation from the Saudi officials, which was not forthcoming. The test was done in Harley Street but the paper work is in KSA.

31. There is no chance that I contracted it in KSA. My genotype was 2b, which is the most common in northern Europe. This type is virtually non-existent in Saudi. My professor, Bjorg M Andersen researched this and came to the same conclusion. She testified at my appeal. See page 5 penultimate paragraph **EXHIBIT WITN0790003**

32. I had my first liver biopsy in March 2000. This showed slowly developing cirrhosis. They tried to blame it on alcohol. The Norwegian government commonly did this, and I have heard that the British Government sometimes does the same.

33. I wasn't even drinking at this point, other than a couple of beers now and again. I was never a big drinker. I have been branded as such, however this is relative to the country you happen to reside in. If you are seen in a bar in the afternoon in Norway you are a branded an alcoholic.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

34. I do not believe that I have received any infection or infections other than Hepatitis C as a result of being given infected blood.

35. I was tested for HIV in 2012 or 2013. I had been feeling ill and had terrible pains in my stomach, like acid. I went into Chelsea and Kensington Hospital and explained my symptoms. The nurse asked if I minded being tested for HIV. This was presumably because I had told them that I had Hepatitis C. I was tested and left the hospital a couple of hours later. I never heard anything so I assumed the result was negative. If I had been positive, they surely would have been in touch. They had all my contact details.

### **Section 4. Consent**

36. As far as I am aware I have never been tested for any infection without my knowledge or consent. As I mentioned earlier I have also always consented to the operations I have had carried out. Notwithstanding there has never been any indication that I was to receive transfused blood during these procedures. Had I been told that this was to be the case I would have been able to make an informed decision.

### **Section 5. Impact**

37. My infection with Hepatitis C impacted me much more psychologically than it did physically. I was frustrated, angry and felt dirty. I was so obsessed with placing the blame somewhere because I knew it didn't lay with me. It psychologically damaged me. I did have the occasional times when I suffered with poor concentration levels, I certainly didn't have what some people have described as 'brain fog' I also didn't have the physical symptoms that are mostly described. In general terms, I did feel ill but nothing I couldn't manage.

38. Every morning, I would wake up and look at my eyes in the mirror to see if they were jaundiced. I was very preoccupied with that and the colour of my urine.

39. Further medical complications have resulted from my Hepatitis C. In April 2014, I was in Bangkok and I had difficulties in the bathroom area. They did a colonoscopy and told me that I should have further tests on my return home.

40. I went into my local hospital and they found that I had a suspected tumour in my colon. A couple of weeks later the tests revealed that I had cancer of my colon. This was most certainly caused by the Hepatitis C.

41. On 6 May 2014, I was operated in the Molde Hospital, I have never known such pain in my life. After the operation, they gave me one very small intravenous injection and then some antibiotic tablets. Having had two hip replacements, I was very familiar with how many antibiotics were required following an operation, and I knew that I had not been given enough. I told the Dr's that I needed more and they refused to give me them.

42. During the operation, 40cm of my colon had been removed and it was successful. I fully expected to have chemotherapy afterwards, but the surgeon told me that I didn't need it and that I was 100% cancer free. I said, "You can't make that

- statement because you don't know". It is a strange statement for anyone to make, let alone a medical professional.
43. I had been at home for a day and a half when I woke up at around 1.00am. I needed to go to the toilet. As I stood up, my stomach fell out in front of me, the stitches had all come undone. I was lying on the bathroom floor with my stomach hanging out, covered in blood calling for Turid. The next thing I knew, I woke up in hospital and had been stitched up again. Turid had called an ambulance.
44. When I was having the second set of stitches put in, the surgeon said, "Have you seen your liver"? I said, "No". He said, "I have", in a very derogatory tone, as if to say, "your liver is in a very bad way". He did nothing about this. There was no follow-up care provided.
45. In January 2016, a new treatment for Hepatitis C came onto the market. I phoned the liver specialist, as I wanted to try this new cure.
46. I went to the hospital in April or May that year and had a CAT scan, ultrasound and an MRI scan. This is when they detected liver cancer. After I had had the operation I was told that I had been 2 to 3 weeks from death. Prior to the tests for the HCV, I had no idea that I even had cancer of the liver. I went into hospital to find out about a new cure for Hepatitis C and had to come home and tell my Turid that I had cancer and a full liver transplant was the only remedy. It wasn't easy.
47. I had had an earlier CT scan on my liver, following a recommendation from the appointment in Bangkok, however the doctor that carried it out had written, "liver scan negative, no further investigation needed". This was despite knowing that I had chronic Hepatitis C and cirrhosis. Can you believe this? It's awful.
48. Prior to the transplant I had to have tests and a full medical examination to see if I was a good candidate for the operation. I was in hospital from 3rd to 6th September 2016. I then was told to go home and wait.
49. On 22 November 2016, I received a phone call from the transplant coordinator. He said, 'Geoffrey, we have a liver for you. It's a very nice one. Get yourself packed and to the airport. We have a ambulance aircraft waiting for you".
50. Turid and I went straight to the airport and within a couple of minutes a twin propeller aircraft came in and my journey to the operating theatre commenced. I have no criticisms about this procedure, I was treated extremely well. I remember Turid reassuring me. She said, "Tomorrow, at this time, you are cancer free, and then we take the rest as it comes".

51. Everything happened so quickly; it didn't have time to sink in. This wasn't just a broken arm; it was a liver transplant! They rushed me straight into an operating theatre filled with people. I remember looking around and thinking, "I hope I wake up".
52. I recovered very quickly. I broke the record for recovery time and came out on 9th December 2016.
53. In January 2018, I suffered a huge hernia brought on from the transplant. This was classed as urgent; however the first letter I received was to have it looked at in June. I went to the doctors and said, "It's too painful, and I can't live like this".
54. I had a hernia operation on 20 June 2018. This took 3 hours longer than the liver transplant because the doctors were ill prepared. It was supposed to take an one or two hours, but when they opened me up they found that the intestines had lots of adhesions to the stomach wall. They then stopped for 2 hours whilst deciding what to do. They freed the intestines but in doing so punctured my small intestine, several times, which they had to repair. I am still suffering the consequences of the damage to this day.
55. I am now clear of Hepatitis C and cancer. I was told I was clear of the virus in January 2017. This was as a result of a new drug I had been offered in December 2016, which fortunately worked. However, I never recovered from the hernia and it has come back. I have trouble eating but I am too terrified to go through any more surgery, I just have to live with it.
56. I feel ill every day. I am convinced that there is something else wrong with me, but I don't know what. I have a feeling I won't be here much longer.
57. The treatment that I received also impacted upon me. Shortly after my diagnosis, my liver specialist Ivar Bliks wrote me a prescription for Interferon. The prescription had to be authorised by the health authorities because it was so expensive. This took about 3 months.
58. One morning, I got a call from the chemist to tell me that I could come and collect my medication. It was waiting for me in a brown bag and I grabbed it and took it away. I opened the bag in my office. In it were 10 syringes, 10 needles, 10 funnels of interferon in powder form and 10 vials of sterile water. There was not one word of instruction.
59. I looked at the equipment before me and thought, "What am I going to do with this? The furthest I could have got was putting the needles in the syringes". I called



- Ivar Bliks and told him. He couldn't understand it. He said come down and show me what you have got. I took it to him and he said "No, no, no. We can't do this".
60. We then went to the pharmacist in the hospital. He gave me something like an EpiPen and told me to inject it into my stomach 3 times a week, within a certain time frame. I was not feeling ill at the time, and I knew from my online research into Interferon that as soon as I took it, it would make me ill. This was pretty tricky psychologically.
61. I took the first injection at 8.00pm. I assumed, wrongly as it happens, that as it was intramuscular, the side effects would be sooner rather than later. I sat on the sofa and waited to feel ill. 9.00pm came. 10.00pm, 11.00pm, and 12.00am. Nothing.
62. I went to bed. At 1.30am I woke up. I have never felt so ill. I was freezing cold, boiling hot, and had aches and pains all over. I was sweating terribly. This continued until Tuesday night. The only way I can describe it as suffering with the worst bout of flu, then multiply this by 100.
63. By midday on the Wednesday I was back to normal, but I knew that I would have to take it again that evening. I nearly didn't take it.
64. This is the strange thing. I took it and had very, very few side effects other than a really horrible metallic taste in my mouth.
65. On Friday I got so worried that I phoned the emergency drug line. I thought that I had taken it wrongly because the side effects hadn't returned.
66. After a month, they had gone completely. I continued to use the Interferon for 6 months and then went for blood tests. The virus was still there, so Ivar told me to continue taking it for another 3 months. It still didn't work.
67. In 2001, I tried pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin. It is supposed to be absorbed into the blood stream slower this way, so the side effects are less. I had one injection a week on a Monday, and took Ribavirin at 8.00am and 8.00pm.
68. I noticed that the treatment was having a bad effect on me physically and psychologically. I had developed itching and red blotches on my skin. My behaviour became very erratic. After 6 weeks I stopped taking it.
69. One defining event made me stop. All of my life, I have been an advocate that a man should never hit a woman. However, these drugs made me psychotic and regrettably I hit my girlfriend Turid. I can't believe that I did it. This made me stop, as I was never going to be put in a position where it made me do that. Turid and I never discuss the incident. Never. She said it wasn't me; it was the medication.

70. Other than this, I can't tell you how I behaved on treatment, because I don't even know myself.
71. In relation to how I became after I found out I was infected, Turid tells me that I had massive mood swings. One minute I was down as low as I could be, the next second I was so happy. She said that she was away from home as much as she could be. She didn't want to come home from work. She said that one second I was joking about it, the other I was so, so angry. She says, to be honest, that is why we got a cat. So that I could be occupied with something else. She said that I was like a prisoner in my own home, and that this gave me something to focus on. It worked.
72. She said that I was difficult to live with. The doctors weren't very good. I don't think that they knew what it really was. They had told me that I would only live for eight or nine months.
73. After I stopped taking it, it didn't take me long to feel normal again. It was probably about a week. Of course, I was later blamed for stopping taking it. The Norwegian compensation board told me that had I continued taking it, I would have been clear of Hepatitis C and never have got cancer of the liver. However, I am aware that the success rate for this treatment is very low.
74. I received one round of a new treatment for Hepatitis C, in June 2016. It didn't work.
75. I had my second round of new treatment just before my liver transplant in 2016. This was Epscula together with Copegus It worked and I was declared clear in January 2017.
76. The liver transplant has taken away my personality. Since I received it, I do not have the same psychological make-up. My will power and concentration levels are not the same, for the worse.
77. My infected status impacted upon my dental treatment. I was once charged £20 extra so that the dentist could use fresh latex gloves. I found this disgusting.
78. In terms of my private and family life, I was always very scared of infecting Turid, for example if I cut myself. I was extremely careful around her for the best part of 20 years. Even now, I am clear of Hepatitis C but she notices that I continue to act in the same careful way if I cut myself.
79. Turid has always given blood. But following my diagnoses, she wasn't allowed to. This was upsetting, as it meant a lot to her to give blood.

80. The stigma of being infected with Hepatitis C had a massive impact on me. Most of it is my fault, through ignorance. I didn't understand the stigma it had, so I told people about it. I told my friends, people I played snooker with, guests that I had round for dinner etcetera.
81. I noticed subtle changes at first. There was a billiard hall nearby, and I used to play every Thursday night. Whilst playing, the other guys and I would pop our beers down on a table and it didn't really matter if they got mixed up. Then I noticed that there was only one beer put down on that table, and it was mine.
82. It was the same with cigarettes. Friends would ask which was mine. If they weren't sure, they would leave the rest of their cigarette. As time went on, people even crossed the street to avoid me.
83. The stigma was present in the work place too. A company that I used to work for in Nigeria said that they would never employ a man with Hepatitis C". That hurt. These people knew me.
84. The infection didn't impact upon my education, but it had a tremendous impact upon my work and financial situation. Since leaving school, I have always worked. I have worked in a variety of engineering jobs all over the world, including Europe, America and Africa.
85. I have lived and worked in Germany, Belgium, Norway, Holland, Houston, Qatar, Egypt and the UK. I speak four languages. In 1987, At times I was the senior engineer in charge of the Channel tunnel.
86. In 2008 I was offered a fantastic job as the senior planning/project engineer in Mongstad. I lasted 91 days before I had to stop. I couldn't work because of the Hepatitis C infection. I was on a £1000 per day and I had to stop.
87. The Hepatitis started to really affect my ability to work. It was such a shame because I loved working. In 2012 I was offered another fantastic job back in Nigeria on tremendous amounts of money, but I couldn't take it. I would have had to take malaria and yellow fever medication, and you can't with Hepatitis C.
88. On one occasion I lost a job because the employer found out that I was infected with Hepatitis.
89. I later became unable to work, because I couldn't take on contracts. I didn't feel able to commit because I knew that my Hepatitis could flare up at any time. I didn't know how long I could last in a job, and I wouldn't take on a contract I didn't feel certain I could fulfil.

90. At one stage, my annual earnings were between £180,000.00 and £200,000.00. I have done the calculations, and this means that my loss of earnings is in the region of 1.8 million pounds.
91. Instead, we have no standard of living. We may lose the house not too far in the future. It is currently mortgaged and I am struggling to maintain the payments. If we lose it, I have no idea what we will do. It's too horrible to contemplate. For one thing, the pets would have to go.
92. The biggest impact the Hepatitis C and liver cancer has had on me has been on my general life. Before I was ill, I had a great life, a really great life. I travelled all over the world, for work and for fun. I have flown from Copenhagen to Bangkok about 40 times. I love Thailand; I love the food, the people and the culture. It is such a vibrant and exciting place. I really loved to travel. My life was incredibly exciting. Now, I have lost it all. All of this has been taken away from me and I don't live half the life I used to.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

93. Other than my first experience with how the injections were provided, I never had any difficulties accessing treatment.
94. I was never offered counselling or support for my infection. I wouldn't have taken it in Norway anyway; the people have no empathy. I would, however, have taken it in the UK.
95. I would like to add that the first suggestion from a doctor was that my cirrhosis had been caused by over indulgence in alcohol.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

96. I hate to say it, but I do believe that I deserve something from the British government.
97. I recently found out about the Skipton Fund. I had never heard of it until I got in touch with the Inquiry. Initially, I was psychologically dissuaded due to the negative experiences that I have had in Norway in relation to financial assistance. The way I was treated caused me a huge amount of negative stress. So much so,

that my Hepatitis C developed into liver cancer in 14 years. That is very quick. They may as well have shot me.

98. However, having been involved with the Inquiry, I now intend to make an application to the Infected Blood Scotland Support Scheme

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

99. In January 2000, I contacted the Norwegian government looking for compensation in relation to my infection. The senior advisor that I spoke to said that they weren't responsible. This was a lie, but it was a logically convincing one. She said that if I wanted to take any action, I would have to sue Ross Hall Hospital.
100. I then spoke to lawyers in Scotland. They said that this would take years to get into court and that the British Medical Association would appeal if I won. I was told not to waste my time and money.
101. In 2007, I spoke with lawyer in Bergen. He told me about the Norwegian compensation board, NPE. He told me that the Norwegian government were in fact responsible. I had entered into a contract with them in relation to the operation, which made Ross Hall a third party.
102. I called them and they told me to send in an application. This was denied 9 months later. I then appealed to a higher board, PSN, and got the same result. The same lies. These lies can be seen in their spiteful verdict, which was pronounced on 18 June 2010 in Nordmore District Court, Kristiansund. **EXHIBIT WITN07900002.** I do note that the translation say August 2010. This should read June as per the original Norwegian copy.
103. What is of note is that they strongly relied on a letter I disclosed to the Court dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 addressed to me from the National Services Scotland. The letter stated that the blood used during my operation was not infected with Hepatitis C: **EXHIBIT WITN07900005.**
104. It reads: *'I can confirm that the two donations listed (pack numbers: 397651X3 & 407439X4) were negative for the mandatory viral tests undertaken on blood donors. These tests included serological testing for Hepatitis C. The letters goes on to say that: 'I can confirm that both donors have subsequently donated and were again negative for the mandatory tests, including Hepatitis C, effectively excluding an infection being missed at the time of donation in 1997'.*

105. I had to accept this as I have had no way of challenging the content of the letter, however I knew that by some method or other I had been infected with the Hepatitis C virus whilst at the Ross Hall hospital, how, exactly is yet to be established.
106. I was adamant that I was not going to let this go, I therefore appealed the Courts decision in 2011 and won. I now have a court ruling dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from the Frostating Court of Appeal, Kristiansund, stating:
107. *To the Court of Appeal, it seems more probable that Trendall was infected during his stay at Ross Hall Hospital than in any other conceivable manner. On this basis, the Court of Appeal finds that it has been proven on the basis of the preponderance of evidence that there is a causal relationship between the injury and the hospital stay.*
- In light of this, the appeal has succeeded. Trendall is thus entitled to compensation from the State represented by the Patients Injury Compensation Board.*
- EXHIBIT WITN0790003.**
108. I have been in court 4 times. Not one word of the hearings has ever been transcribed. There are no records.
109. I would finally like to say that I have never been in any doubt whatsoever as to where I was infected. It was at Ross Hall. As soon as I was aware that I had been infected I very soon realised that I didn't have anywhere or anyone to go for assistance or to take any form of responsibility for the horrible infection that I had contracted.
110. On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014, I wrote to the BMI Ross Hall Hospital asking them to acknowledge that they had infected me with the virus. To substantiate my assertion I sent them a copy of the appeal verdict dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011. **EXHIBIT WITNO790003.** They replied on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015 stating:
111. *'As you were a patient at BMI Ross Hall Hospital over 20 years ago please note that we no longer hold your medical records. Following your previous contact with us and our subsequent investigation we reiterate that we found no evidence indicating that you contracted Hepatitis C at BMI Ross Hall Hospital. Should you wish to take this matter further, we would advise you to seek independent legal advice'* **EXHIBIT WITN0790004**
112. It is of note that they say they no longer hold my medical records. They have however apparently carried out 'investigations' My question is, what records were

available for them to look at which enabled them to complete these so called investigations?

113. I have been asked if I would be willing to give my evidence in person at the hearings. The answer is gladly. My main purpose for making this statement is to make people aware how awful this virus is and how it affects people, also to highlight the terrible way I have been treated by the Norwegian government who have placed obstacles in my way at every point. This has made me very angry and caused me so much stress and anxiety. Especially the first verdict dated in the June 2010. **EXHIBIT WITNO790002.**

114. I have no doubt that my liver cancer was caused by the Hepatitis virus and was expedited by the sheer amount of stress that I have been placed under.

#### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 02.02.2019