

Witness Name: Timothy Andrew

Statement No.: WITN1076001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 1/6 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY ANDREW

I, Timothy Andrew, will say as follows:

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Timothy Andrew. My date of birth is GRO-C 1966 and my address is GRO-C California, U.S.A. I live with my wife and two daughters.

Section 2: How infected

Haemophilia

2. I have mild Haemophilia A which was diagnosed at the age of around three or four years old. My grandfather GRO-C and my mother GRO-C GRO-C Whilst I have been affected by haemophilia all of my life, I do feel fortunate that it is mild. I have friends who I met at the Haemophilia Centre who have had it much worse than I have.
3. For the entire time when I was living in the United Kingdom (which was until around 20 years ago), I was treated at the Oxford Haemophilia Centre. My clinicians were Dr Charles Rizza and Dr Matthews and I liked both of them. Everyone that I saw at the

Oxford Haemophilia Centre were very nice and I thought that they took good care of me at the time.

4. I am aware that I was treated with Factor VIII. I received treatment with blood products more often when I was a child because I was obviously doing what normal children do, playing and hurting my knees etc. When I got older, I was more careful and so I received less Factor VIII.
5. My mother has informed me that she was not told about the risks associated with Factor VIII and when I reached an age when I would have been able to understand the risks, I was not told about them. It was not something that we would have questioned. We were very trusting of the safety of the products which I was receiving.

Diagnosis with Hepatitis C

6. I do remember the details of the day I was told that I had Hepatitis C very clearly. I would have been around 14 or 15 years of age at the time. I attended an appointment with my mother and saw Dr Rizza and Dr Matthews and I recall that Dr Matthews did most of the talking. He explained that I was positive for Hepatitis C and that I had contracted it through Factor VIII products. I do not remember the words 'infected' or 'contaminated' being used, it was more of a statement of fact and it was only subsequently that I learned the blood products were contaminated.
7. The consequences of being diagnosed with Hepatitis C were not explained and I remember thinking that I did not understand what this would mean for me. I was asking questions but I was not getting an answer. I was just told that I had it and that it was incurable. It was very confusing for me as a teenager and it was not really talked about or raised again by my clinicians until I moved to America (which I will set out below). My mother has said that she feels guilty because she should have asked more about what the consequences would be, what we could do to maintain my health and about the treatment but at that time, you did not ask awkward questions – everyone was very polite and when it is something which you are not familiar with, it is difficult to know what to ask. The information was completely lacking. Now if I

were diagnosed with an illness, I would expect my doctor to explain it properly, what is known about it and how to manage it. As I have said previously, I did like Dr Rizza and Dr Matthews and they were always helpful when I needed treatment but maybe they did not know what to say or do themselves. I find it hard to be critical of my clinicians because maybe they were doing the best they could.

Section 3: Non-Hodgins Lymphoma

1. Whilst I have not contracted any other infections, on Christmas Eve 2009, I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgins Lymphoma. I subsequently received a letter informing me that people who had received contaminated blood products were at risk of getting Non-Hodgins Lymphoma. I cannot recall who the letter was from, it may have been the National Health Service or the Oxford Haemophilia Centre.
2. I was by this time living in California. I went to see my doctor because I was having problems swallowing. I was initially told that it was likely that I had oesophageal cancer and that my life expectancy would be three months because it is an aggressive cancer. I then went to see a different doctor at Cedars-Sinai and they carried out further tests and they discovered it was actually Non-Hodgins Lymphoma in my oesophagus. Miraculously I was successful treated there and recovered. That was ten years ago now and I have a check-up every year.

Section 4: Consent

3. I do not recall being told that I was being tested for Hepatitis C, HIV or any other infections but I cannot say for certain. However, I do know that the diagnosis of Hepatitis C came out of the blue which would appear to me mean that I was not being told.

Section 5: Impact

Physical impact of treatment for Non-Hodgins Lymphoma and Hepatitis C

11. I have set out above the initial impact that the Non-Hodgins Lymphoma had on me physically. However, the side effects from the cancer treatment with chemotherapy and steroids had the biggest physical impact. My hair fell out and my joints were so swollen it was hard to walk up and down the stairs. The steroids stopped me from being able to sleep which had an impact on my mental health because there was so many waking minutes during the night. You really do not feel like it is your own body. I was treated with chemotherapy and steroids for a period of around four months.
12. The issue of my Hepatitis C was actually raised when I was receiving treatment for the Non-Hodgins Lymphoma as it was identified in my various blood tests. In 2010, after my course of chemotherapy had finished, I was told by the Cedar-Sinai Hospital that there was a new treatment for Hepatitis C and they asked me if I wanted to be part of a small group of people who were being treated with it.
13. The treatment was with Interferon and Ribavirin which I administered myself. Due to the fact that I had gone straight from receiving cancer treatment which affects you quite significantly, the side effects from the Hepatitis C treatment were tolerable in comparison. However, there was an issue which was worrying when my white blood cell count went dangerously low due to the treatment. I received a telephone call from my doctor telling me that unless I immediately received a blood transfusion, I could have a heart attack. At the time I was at work and I could not just leave – I had to wait until my working day was over and then I went to the local hospital to receive a blood transfusion. Normally, a blood transfusion is given over a period of 24 hours but again, because I needed to go back to work the next day, they had to give me the blood transfusion at an increased speed. My treatment for Hepatitis C was again over a period of months and I successfully cleared my infection.

Mental impact of diagnosis with Non-Hodgins Lymphoma and Hepatitis C

14. As I have set out above, I was initially told that I had three months to live. I was given a book on how to say goodbye to my children. I thought that this was going to be the last Christmas I was going to spend with my wife, children and family so even though the hospital wanted me to stay, I went home. I had a family to take care of and my biggest worry was what would happen to them
15. The treatment for Hepatitis C caused me stress and anxiety. I was concerned that I could have a heart attack at any moment and every day I was waiting to see if I was going to get another telephone call from the hospital. This again meant that I was worrying about what would happen to my family if I did have a heart attack and did not make it. I just wanted the course of treatment to be over because it was the treatment which could have killed me.
16. I feel lucky because I did manage to work through both my Non-Hodgins Lymphoma and Hepatitis C treatment and this distracted me. When I had down time, my mind would sometimes go to a very dark place.

How infected status has impacted on medical treatment and/or dental care

17. To date, I have not experienced any issues regarding medical or dental treatment due to being diagnosed with Non-Hodgins Lymphoma or Hepatitis C.

Family and social life

18. When I was initially diagnosed with Non-Hodgins Lymphoma, I did not know if I was going to survive. My family in England came to visit and I remember saying to them that we should all go on holiday, a normal holiday and not worry about what was going to happen. I tried to make a 'British stiff upper lip' joke about it but my wife who is American did not appreciate it. I said to them 'let's assume I am not going to die' as I did not want everyone sitting around feeling sorry for me. My family stayed for a few days and we had a bit of a holiday together. This was an extremely upsetting time for my family.

19. My children suffered with anxiety because anybody that knew me and knew that I was ill would cry and hug me and they sensed that something was wrong but did not understand.
20. During the period when I was being treated for Non-Hodgins Lymphoma and Hepatitis C, we did as a family try to do activities together but this was limited to special occasions, unlike normal times when you would go out at the weekend. My memories of this time are based on photographs and I remember taking my daughter whale watching for her birthday. My children shaved my head so I have no hair on the photograph. You definitely curtail your life down to the essentials. I was either at work or with my family, I did not do anything outside of that. I tried to save as much money as I could just in case I did not make it, I wanted to make sure my wife and children would be financially stable.

Stigma

21. When I was younger, I did not tell people that I was a haemophiliac or that I had been diagnosed with Hepatitis C because there was stigma attached to it. I was worried that employers were not going to be comfortable employing me so I kept this to myself.
22. As I have got older and have had children of my own, I am a lot more open about my haemophilia, Non-Hodgins Lymphoma and my Hepatitis C diagnosis. When I had children, I wanted to be a better person and I want my children to be able to be open about any issues which they might have so I have to provide them with a good example. I do not want them to feel embarrassed or to have to hide anything.
23. I discovered that when I was ill, it was easier for me to accept what was happening to me but it is very hard when you have to tell another person – they do not know what to say and they are uncomfortable. I realised this early on and so I only told the people that needed to know.

Work, financial impact

24. When I was ill with Non-Hodgins Lymphoma, my employers were very generous and flexible. I had to be honest with them about what I was going through in relation to Non-Hodgins Lymphoma but I did not tell them about my Hepatitis C diagnosis or treatment. I was able to have my treatments and then go back to work afterwards and I was aware that I was suffering with physical side effects.
25. As my wife was a full-time mother when I was ill, I was the sole financial provider for the household. We were not as financially secure as we are now and I had no choice but to continue working through my treatments. The hospital actually commented that I was the only patient who was receiving cancer treatment and then going to work afterwards. I feel lucky that I had medical insurance that covered the majority of my hospital bills and that I could continue to work.

Section 6: Care and Support

26. I have never been offered any counselling in relation to my diagnosis with Non-Hodgins Lymphoma or Hepatitis C.

Section 7: Financial assistance

27. I do receive financial assistance from The Skipton Fund but I cannot recall receiving a lump sum payment. I receive quarterly payments in the region of £8,000.
28. From what I can remember, the application process was straightforward but obtaining my medical records which I needed to be able to submit the application was difficult. I cannot actually remember how I managed to obtain them in the end.

Section 8: Conclusion

29. Despite what I have been through, I feel that I am one of the lucky people because I am still here and I am able to provide this evidence. I have read so many sad stories about people who have lost their lives, lost loved ones or have been seriously impacted by contaminated blood and how difficult that must be. I am not sure how that can be compensated for in any meaningful way. How can you provide comfort to people who have lost their loved ones? I hope that lessons can be learnt from the mistakes made so that this does not happen again in the future.
30. I do not wish to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry but I would like my evidence to be public.

Statement of Truth

I believe the facts in this witness statement are true.

GRO-C

Signed:

Timothy Andrew

Dated:

1/6/21