

Witness Name: Carl Swatman

Statement No.: WITN3181001

Exhibits: WITN3181002 to WITN3181005

Dated: 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CARL SWATMAN

I, **Carl Swatman**, will say as follows:-

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Carl Swatman. My date of birth is **GRO-C** 1974 and my address is **GRO-C**. I have a daughter and I live with my partner.
2. I am making this statement about my father and the impact his Hepatitis infections had on me. My father's name was John Michael Swatman and he was born on **GRO-C** 1942 and he died on 3 July 2011 (although his Death Certificate incorrectly states he died on 4 July 2011). A number of conditions are listed on my father's Death Certificate as the cause of his death (primary acute intracerebral haemorrhage; hypertension; severe coronary atheroma) but Hepatitis is not listed **[WITN3181002]**.

Section 2: How Infected

Christmas disease/Haemophilia B

3. My father was born with Christmas disease which is a type of haemophilia (Haemophilia B). I believe that his condition was severe. He was diagnosed at around the age of eight or nine.
4. I do not have the specific details of all of the products that my father was prescribed but I am aware that my father received plasma to treat his condition. In the 1980s, he was receiving Factor IX and then he later went on to receive BeneFix.
5. My father was treated at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital by a number of different clinicians. My father's medical records indicate that he was being treated by Consultant Haematologists: Jay Leslie; A J Black and a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon called Hugh Phillips. This would have been in or around 1984 to 1985 which is when I believe he was infected with Hepatitis B and C.
6. I was only around eight or nine years old at the time he was receiving Factor IX and I therefore do not know if my father was given advice about the risk of being exposed to infection.
7. I have, however, seen some correspondence in my father's medical records which evidence that the clinicians were discussing the Factor IX products used. They state they could get it for free from the Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree, that it was untreated and because of this there was a need for caution because of the risk it was transmitting AIDS **[WITN3181003]**.

Diagnosis with Hepatitis

8. My father was tested at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital in 1983 for Hepatitis and the results were initially negative. In 1992, after my father's blood was tested again, it was confirmed he had contracted Hepatitis B and C but I do not know when or who told him about the positive result.

9. I do not know what if any information my father was given in 1992 to manage his infections but I have located a letter dated 1994 saying that he had an appointment at the hospital which was to explain to him how to inject himself with Interferon and a letter dated 5 September 2006 asking my father to contact Dr Kelf to discuss his treatment [WITN3181004].
10. I do recall that he was told about the risk of transmitting Hepatitis. When I was younger, my father was admitted to hospital for a knee replacement operation and I was not allowed to go onto the ward to see him. I can remember that the doctors had masks and gowns on and them saying that he had an infection and people were not allowed to go near to him. My father was in hospital for a long time because his knee replacement operation did not go well. He got an infection in the bone and gangrene in his leg and he was in hospital for nearly a year. He ended up having to have his leg fused together.

Section 3: Other infections

11. As far as I know, my father did not contract any other infections but he did receive a letter informing him that he might have been exposed to vCJD.

Section 4: Consent

12. I do not know if my father knew that he was being tested for infection.

Section 5: Impact

Mental/physical impact on my father of being infected with Hepatitis

13. Prior to my father becoming infected with Hepatitis, I recall that he was a happy man. However, after his diagnosis, my father tried to commit suicide and I had to go and stay with my grandmother. He looked very ill at the time, white like he had flu and he was sort of dizzy. I do not know if this was due to Hepatitis or the treatment with Interferon which he received for it. I am not sure if my father ever cleared his Hepatitis infections.

How infected status has impacted on my father's medical treatment and/or dental care

14. I do know that medical procedures were affected by my father's haemophilia condition (not specifically related to Hepatitis) and I can recall that he had to wait longer to have procedures at hospital and at the dentist carried out. I have seen some correspondence relating to his haemophilia where the cost of Factor IV is discussed, that he would have to wait for the procedure until they had received enough Factor IX and also due to his Hepatitis status, that would need to be taken into consideration **[WITN3181005]**.

Private, family and social life

15. I am an only child and when my father got ill, it was quite difficult because I have also a condition called Periodic Fever Syndrome. It means that I am susceptible to septicaemia and I was ill quite a lot when I was younger. We used to have to go to St Thomas' Hospital in London and my mother and father would have to stay there with me. As my father was not very well, it was quite difficult because he would have to sleep on a camp bed on the ward because there was nowhere else to stay and I can remember that it used to hurt his legs and it would make him unhappy. My mother and father would argue a lot due to this. My father was not well enough to give his full support and this really upset him a lot.
16. In the end my mother left my father and this was mainly due to his health conditions and the additional stress of my condition.
17. I remember that I used to spend a lot of time worrying about my father. I stayed with him after my mother left and I would do a lot of jobs for him like shopping, going to pay his rent and everyday tasks. I was doing this from the age of 12 until I left home at the age of 22/23. Once I had left home, I used to go around to see him every day and I would cook for him and wash him. My father was a proud man so he never really wanted anyone to help him but we were close

and he trusted me to do things for him. I used to take him to his hospital appointments and anything he needed, I would be there for him.

Education, work, financial impact

18. My father did have to give up work due to his haemophilia (I do not know if this was attributable in any way to Hepatitis or the treatment he received) but because of his condition and Hepatitis status, he could not get a mortgage to buy his council house which always bothered him and made him really sad.
19. Due to my father's haemophilia, Hepatitis and my parents' marriage breakdown, this really impacted on my education at school. I would sometimes not attend but my parents used to think I was going.
20. I eventually had to give up my job to care for my father because I was so worried about him. He used to have lots of falls and because of his haemophilia, he would bleed. There were lots of times when I would telephone my father and there would be no reply so I would have to leave work to go to his house and I would find that he had fallen. I unfortunately have not been able to resume work. Two days after my father died, I suffered with an episode of septicaemia and ended up in hospital. The doctors have signed me off work indefinitely.
21. My own marriage broke down because I changed my life to look after my father but I do not blame him. We were really close. He was the kind of person who always stood by me.

Section 6: Care/Support

22. As far as I am aware, my father did not receive counselling in relation to his Hepatitis diagnosis or in relation to the treatment which he received for it and I have never received counselling myself.

Section 7: Financial Assistance

23. My father received a payment of £20,000 from The Skipton Fund in around 2005/2006. He did not want to make a claim for it but I encouraged him to. There were so many times that my father could have sued the NHS for negligence but he was the type of person who did not want to cause any trouble so I kind of made him apply for the compensation.
24. I think it was one of the clinicians who told my father about the compensation and they assisted with completing the application. The hospital filled out the details in relation to my father's infection and I completed the remainder of the application for him. I recall it being a straightforward process.
25. The only other financial assistance my father got was from the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to his disability allowance. They actually stopped his allowance at one point and I can recall that they said that my father was fit to work, which he was not. I used to have to push my father around in a wheelchair and he had not seen the upstairs of his house for years! He used to sleep in a chair because there was no room downstairs for a bed. My father did have the support of his clinicians in relation to his condition though and his disability allowance did resume.

Section 8: Other issues

26. I hope that the outcome of the Inquiry would be that the Government accept responsibility for the mistakes which have been made. The Government knew that the blood products that were being used were contaminated and ultimately infected so many people. My father's best friend died from AIDS after being treated with factor products. Not only that, my life would have been very different, my father's infection impacted on my life and my future. My father wanted to buy his council house to be able to set me and my daughter up but he was not able to do that and I am now left to struggle and get by.

27. I am prepared to provide oral evidence in public to the Inquiry should I be asked to do so.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

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Mr Carl Swatman

Dated:

..... 30/3/2021