

Witness Name: Ian Walden

Statement No.: WITN0652001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 15.02.2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF IAN WALDEN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 15 February 2019.

I, Ian Walden, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Ian Walden. My date of birth is GRO-C 1962 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am a manager at a cleaning company. I live with my wife, Angela, and I have two grown-up children. I have Haemophilia A and have been infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) and Hepatitis B (HBV).
2. I intend to speak about my infections with HCV and HBV including how I understand I came to be infected. I will also speak about the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment I received and the impact it has had on my life.
3. I confirm that I have chosen not to be legally represented and that I am happy for the Inquiry team to assist me in writing my statement. The Inquiry team

have explained anonymity and I confirm I do not require any information to be kept private.

Section 2. How Infected

4. I have been living with severe Haemophilia A since I was born and the symptoms still affect me to this day.
5. I am unaware of the exact dates of the treatment I've received throughout the years. I also do not know the exact dates when I was infected as I do not have any records or batch codes; however, I know I was infected by using blood products and contracted HCV and HBV. I could have been infected on multiple occasions in my youth, as I received regular blood products as a result of bleeds in my joints.
6. I was born in Southmead Hospital in Bristol in 1962, and this is where I understand I had my first blood transfusion. My mother told me that I had a blood transfusion at birth; however, she is no longer with me to confirm that information.
7. I grew up in Guernsey, but I attended the Oxford Haemophilia Centre where I was treated for severe bleeds which required specialist care. This specialist care would often involve blood transfusions and the administration of frozen plasma. During this time, I was treated by Dr Rizza. I know that when I was 3 years old, in 1965, I cut under my tongue and had to be rushed to the UK from Guernsey for treatment. When I was 5 years old, in 1967, I also fell and split my head open; again, being rushed to Oxford from Guernsey.
8. I then moved under the care and supervision of Dr Stephen Roaper at the Grande Maison Surgery, Guernsey.
9. I received Cryoprecipitate in the early 1970's until around 1978, when Recombinant factor VIII, the new 'wonder cure' was introduced. Back then,

this treatment was administered through the Guernsey Health Authority via UK blood supplies. I received this until I was diagnosed with HCV in 1994.

HCV

10. I first saw an article on the teletext in November 1994 about the UK Haemophilia Society suing the UK government due to contracting HIV and HCV. Prior to this, I had no knowledge of what HCV was. As I already had haemophilia, I was already acquainted with having to deal with a difficult medical condition and it was 'something you get and have to deal with'.
11. I contacted Dr Roaper who relayed that it was not important but may be worthwhile having a blood test. Dr Roaper called me at 19.30 one evening and stated that I tested negative for Hepatitis A, HBV and HIV. I had actually been tested for HIV in the early 90's when there was a hype surrounding it, but nothing was ever mentioned about HCV then. However, Dr Roaper then stated that I had tested positive for HCV. I then asked what was the next step, to which Dr Roaper replied "I don't know". I then changed doctors.
12. I was disgusted with how my test results for HCV were communicated to me. I was called at 19:30 in the evening, and told that I had an illness that was killing people. My wife and young son were out, and my young daughter was asleep at the time I received the news; I remember thinking that there was a chance of me not seeing my children growing up.
13. Later in 1994, following my diagnosis from Dr Roaper, I transferred to my wife's GP practice, Queens Road Medical Centre, Guernsey. Dr Stephen Wray was my doctor at this centre. I was monitored for three months before I was referred to Professor GRO-D at the Royal South Hants Hospital. Professor GRO-D fully explained the illness and treatment available, but not the side effects. Dr Wray then liaised with Professor GRO-D about my treatment plans.
14. Initially, no information was given on the risks of others being infected as a result of my infection. Dr Wray advised it was a good idea for my wife to get tested, whose results thankfully came back clear.

15. I was vaccinated for HBV in the 1980s. When I spoke to my specialist five years ago to get a HBV booster, he told me that I had HBV for most of my life but it had cleared on its own; I guess the antibodies were in my blood and it helped me to fight the virus.

16. I was tested for HIV in the early 90s when AIDS hit the headlines. I can't recall exactly when I was tested, but it was around the time we were trying for children or just had children. I understand I was also tested for HBV at this point, but the doctor made no mention of me being HBV positive.

Section 3. Other Infections

17. As far as I know, apart from HCV and HBV, I have not contracted any other infections as a result of being given infected blood products. However, like all other hidden diseases, I am aware that this could start at any time like vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

18. To the best of my knowledge, I have not been treated or tested without my knowledge, consent or for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

Treatment and physical impact

19. In August 1995 I started Interferon to treat my HCV infection. The span of this treatment course was 18 months. I did not face any obstacles in accessing treatment; it was made readily available to me. I was fortunate to be under the care of Professor Arthur who was the leading man on this subject. Furthermore, I believe I received the correct treatment, which was available at the time.

20. I experienced terrible physical side effects of the Interferon treatment, including, severe joint pain, loss of hair, IBS and a rash.

21. The side effects of the treatment was terrible – had hair loss, joint inflammation, IBS, bouts of depression, anxiety and mood swings.

22. Living with Haemophilia A was difficult growing up but it is something I had to get used to and deal with. I regularly injected myself with Factor VIII when needed. I was taking factor VIII well in to the 2000's. I started taking Advate via the NHS Supply chain in 2003.

Mental impact

23. The mental effects of the infection and subsequent treatment included a significant amount of stress and anxiety. I also experienced mood swings and depression at the thought of what was going on.

24. At the time I didn't think anything about it, I just thought I was getting old, but my wife said I had changed. Now with the Internet, I realise that it wasn't old age that gave me all of the issues – it was the treatment. I remember raising this with my doctor.

Family, social, work and financial impact

25. My wife was initially worried for my health, and the risk to her and our children. There was also the issue of how much time we would spend going over to the UK for checks. There was no support locally for any of us and we had to take it day by day.

26. I was not affected in terms of my ability to carry out my work. However, I did have to take a lot of time off, including the annual leave I would have to take to go to the UK for tests.

27. Having found out I was infected with HCV made a big difference in my work and how people treated me and I knew they deemed me a health risk to them.

28. In terms of financial effects, the flights to the UK for myself were covered but I had to pay for my family's flights and accommodation as they were young and could not be left alone.

29. My brother was also a haemophiliac and was diagnosed with HBV in the 1980s. Sadly, in 1989 my brother died at the age of 32 of an overdose caused by depression.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

30. I feel that information about HCV should have been provided in the 1980's. There should have been a look-back exercise, instead of finding out on teletext over 10 years after the information was in the public domain. It was known that I was at risk of having a blood-borne virus due to my previous treatment.

31. When I found out I was infected with HCV, neither my wife nor I were ever offered any counselling or psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

32. I became aware of the Caxton Fund online via someone on Facebook. I applied for the Caxton Fund who then contacted Dr Rashid Kazmi, my specialist who I see twice a year in Southampton. In October 2013, once the fund was able to get all the information they needed, I was granted the £20,000 special payment and there were no issues with this.

33. In November 2017, I applied for the Stage 2 secondary payment and filled my part of the application form in and sent it to Dr Kazmi. Dr Kazmi said he could not fill out the medical side of the application form and he passed it to a colleague who I had never met or spoken to before. Not too long after, I received a letter saying that I had been refused the payment because there was not enough evidence provided on the medical side of the form.

34. I appealed the decision on the grounds that the expert had never met me or knew my medical history, but again, I was refused. I went to my GP and he provided the medical evidence six months later and I was eventually accepted for the payment.

35. I then started receiving an annual payment of £500 in December from the Skipton Fund towards winter fuel. Since the Skipton fund has now changed to the England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBBS), I now also qualify for the secondary Stage 1 payment of £18,000 per year.

36. I found the whole process of applying for financial assistance to be very stressful and a difficult process. I cannot understand why they make it so hard for us, especially when we are the ones who have been wronged.

Section 8. Other Issues

37. I have not been part of any litigation. I have previously been represented by Collins and Leigh Day. I was advised to sign up with them but I felt that they were too pushy and only in it for the money.

38. I have no medical records or documents to submit to support my statement because my records are split between Bristol Royal Infirmary, the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, Southampton General Hospital, Royal South Hants Hospital and Guernsey Hospital.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C _____

Dated 8TH MAY 2019