

Witness Name: Mrs S Neasham

Statement No: WITN 1423001

Exhibit : WITN1423002

Dated: 10th January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SARAH NEASHAM

I, Sarah Neasham will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Sarah Neasham (nee Hull). I was born on the [GRO-C] 1970 and live at [GRO-C] with my husband and one of my two daughters. I am in full time employment.
2. I make this statement as the daughter of David William Hull (deceased) who was infected with HIV, Hepatitis B and C as a result of receiving contaminated blood products and who died on [GRO-C] 1992.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of full access to my father's medical records held by the Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne or any access to his medical records held by the Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

Section 2. How infected

4. My Father had Hemophilia A classed as severe with a clotting factor of less than 1%. He was diagnosed at the age of 10 days when a doctor circumcised him and he didn't stop bleeding. Initially he was treated by Dr T H Boon and later on by Dr Peter Jones at the Royal Victoria Infirmary where he was treated with Cryoprecipitate and then Factor VIII products, manufactured by Amour (Factorate) NHS (FVIII), Baxter (Hemofil), Abbot, (Profilate) Cutter (Koate) and they also gave him pigs blood. His treatment was transferred to the Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) when he moved to Manchester in or about 1982/1983 where he continued to receive Factor VIII Blood products until his death in GRO-C 1992. I refer to Exhibit WITN1423002.
5. In or about 1990 my father told my sister and I that he was HIV positive and that he had known since 1989 and that he believed he was infected in July 1982. I believe when he died it had developed into full blown AIDS.
6. I am not aware, if my father was given any information or advice about the risk of being exposed to infection from blood products before being treated but I consider it unlikely as I am sure my father would have mentioned that he knew there was a risk, and he did not.
7. I was told by my father that he went to the MRI for a routine appointment and the doctor just told him he had HIV. I am unaware if he received any information to understand and manage the infection, or about the risks of others being infected. However I can confirm no advice of any sort was given to my sister or I.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I believe my father may have been infected with vCJD as a result of being given contaminated blood products.

Section 4. Consent

9. I do not know if my father gave his consent to being treated or tested without being given full, or any information. I also cannot say if he was treated or tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

10. I remember my father just having to touch something and he would bleed, and I grew up watching my mother having to treat him with Factor VIII.
11. I knew my father as a very sociable person and he liked being with people. However during the last two years of his life he stayed in the house most of the time and became very reclusive. He suffered very painful migraines. I remember he came up to a wedding in Durham but he had to leave early because he couldn't cope.
12. When Freddie Mercury died in November 1991 it became clear to my father, that's was what was going to happen to him. My dad never recovered after that. I think he didn't tell anyone outside the family he was dealing with a death sentence as he didn't want his family to suffer any social stigma.
13. When I gave birth to my daughter in GRO-C 1992 and my father was still at home, (although going in and out of hospital) he didn't come to see me or his granddaughter. I took a photograph to show him but by then he was on a different planet, it was like he had Dementia. He spent the last couple of months of his life in MRI where he died.
14. I am not aware if he had any treatment as the whole time he knew he was infected he was living in Manchester with his second wife I don't know how or if he told the rest of the family. I know I told some members of the family. My parents were divorced at that time and now I can't remember if I was the one who told my mother.

15. When my Dad sat me down and told me he was infected, I remember asking him are you going to die,? He said "yes." I did not accept this at the time and even after he had died. The reality hit me a lot later. I didn't realise quite how much it had affected me until I started receiving counselling in 2005 and the counselor picked up, straight away that I had not dealt with my father's death.

16. I had my daughter and he never saw her. At the time he was too ill to travel and was often admitted to the MRI. Towards the end, he had a catheter in and kept pulling it out. He didn't know what he was doing. He was like a vegetable. His death had a huge impact on his mother, GRO-C

GRO-C

She was absolutely devastated.

Section 6. Treatment care and support

17. When he was in MRI I didn't see any mistreatment, but he was put in an isolation ward. He was initially on the main ward but he was then put in an isolation room. I remember I took my daughter to see him and she wasn't allowed on the ward because of the risk of infection.

18. No psychological support or counselling was offered to me by the NHS at the time of his infection or death.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

19. The only thing I know is that in the very early 1990's there was an ex gratia payment, I think from the Macfarlane trust, I believe it was about £30,000. I know this as his second wife used the money to have a new bathroom suite installed so that's it was more hygienic for my father when he came home; but he didn't come home.

Section 8. Other Issues

20. I have really mixed feelings about the Inquiry, because nothing will ever bring my father back. I used to work for a health authority, and I know that corners are cut all the time. I believe they will continue to cut corners so even if the Inquiry makes recommendations another scandal will probably happen again in two years or five years time.

21. I am also aware records go missing when convenient and reappear when necessary.

22. I believe it's absolutely disgusting what has happened and I think the people responsible should be held accountable for what they have done or failed to do.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

23. I do not wish to be anonymous; I would be prepared to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... GRO-C

Dated..... 10 January 2019