

Witness Name: Patricia Ann Newberry

Statement No: WITN1426001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 24th January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PATRICIA ANN NEWBERRY

I, Patricia Ann Newberry will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Patricia Ann Newberry. My date of birth is the [GRO-C] 1943, and I live at [GRO-C], Kent [GRO-C]. I am retired. I married my husband, Paul Richard Newberry (my husband) in 1964 and we have four grown up children, three daughters and a son as well as four grandchildren. My husband past away on the [GRO-C] 2007.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my husband's full medical records.

Section 2. How affected

3. My husband was born on the [GRO-C] 1942, and was moderate Haemophilia A. I believe that he was diagnosed with Haemophilia at the age of 11 when he had surgery to remove his tonsils and he bled severely.
4. I believe that he received blood products from the time he was diagnosed; however, I am not sure as we met in 1960 when I was 18 years old. We married in 1964.

5. Shortly after we were married we were involved in a very serious car accident in which my husband received severe lacerations to his face and was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital for treatment. He was treated with blood products and that was the first time I recall him receiving blood products.
6. My husband did not require blood products on a prophylactic basis, instead they were provided whenever he needed them, such as when he had a bleed, or prior to an operation.
7. I also recall that he had major surgery to his teeth at the Manchester Royal Infirmary in the early 1970's. He was also given blood products at that time. I believe that he might have had a blood transfusion as well after his treatment.
8. We then moved to GRO-C where he was treated at the hospital there. In about 2004 we moved to GRO-C in Dorset and he received treatment from the local hospital until he died in 2007.
9. I am unsure as to when my husband was infected, as he was treated with blood products all throughout his life.
10. I am also unsure, whether my husband or his parents were ever informed about the risk of using blood products; however I do not believe that they were as I am sure he would have shared it with me if he had been informed about the risk of infection from blood products.
11. In the early 1990's my husband was told he had been infected with Hepatitis C (HVC) at the Maidstone Hospital. He was in his early 50's. He never really had any regular review appointments but received a letter requesting he attend an appointment to talk about his blood condition. I offered to go with him; however, he wanted to go on his own. He was told at the meeting that he had been

infected with HVC. I cannot recall the name of the consultant who saw my husband but I know he was told about his condition at that meeting.

12. I am unsure, whether my husband was given any practical information about his HCV infection by the medical staff. He never elaborated on that. However he came away from the appointment with an information leaflet that he has been given regarding HVC and was told not to have unprotected sex. I do not believe that he was provided with adequate information to enable him to understand and manage his condition.

13. I believe that the information about his infection and what it meant should have been provided earlier. I think that once the NHS became aware that any patients had been treated with infected blood, everyone who had been given blood products should have been advised about it and should have been offered tests. Instead, there was no information provided which helped us to understand the risks of the infection, or how to handle the condition. I do not think that we understood what HCV involved even at the end of my husband's life.

14. I recall my husband attended a number of appointments after being diagnosed with HVC but I am not aware of the details.

15. I used to donate blood however, following my husband's diagnosis I was no longer allowed to do so.

Section 3. Other Infections

16. I am unaware of any other infections that my husband might have had.

Section 4. Consent

17. I am not aware that my husband was treated or tested without his knowledge or consent or without being given adequate or full information or for the purpose of research.

Section 5. Impact

18. My husband was a Minister of Religion and a Theological College Lecturer, he was a very strong character and had a very strong sense of vocation. It was therefore hard to tell if he suffered mentally with his condition. He seemed to cope with the pain and being unwell. He tried to live as normal life as possible and he tried not to allow the infection to affect his everyday life.
19. The only time when he was not capable of living a normal life was whenever he became ill, for example with flu. This is when the flu symptoms appeared to be made worse by the HCV. I also remember that he suffered from very bad reflux and his eye sight became a problem.
20. In 2006, he was diagnosed with liver cancer at Poole Hospital. He received chemotherapy, which started in January 2007 and lasted all year. The chemo was delivered to the house, it was self administered. He was in a lot of pain and was unwell and it appeared he could no longer fight the condition. He became anxious and was worried about me and our son, who was still living at home at the time. He was also overly anxious about small things, such as foxes in the garden.
21. By September/October he seemed to be losing his mind. I contacted his specialist and told him that I was very unhappy with how the treatment was affecting my husband. Following tests the doctors said his spleen had become very swollen. They advised him to have an operation to remove his spleen in order to take the pressure off his liver. My husband and I expressed our concern that he might bleed to death if he had the operation due to his Haemophilia. The doctors reassured us that he would be fine.
22. He agreed to have the operation which was undertaken on Friday the 22nd November 2007 however, he did not regain consciousness and his organs began to shut down, I was told there was nothing that could be done. He passed away

on Monday the 25th November 2007 at 6:50pm, which was as a result of excessive bleeding. I do believe that they did their best and they gave him great care. The doctors seemed surprised that he died as if something had happened that they were not expecting.

23. No treatment was provided to my husband for his HCV. We were never made aware that any treatment was available.

24. In terms of the social effect that his condition had on my husband and our family, we never shared his condition with anybody other than our immediate family, my husband's side of the family and a couple of close friends. His condition was never discussed socially.

25. Overall, my husband lived a very rich and fulfilled life. He truly enjoyed his job, he established churches, he travelled to many different countries and enjoyed writing. He was a devoted family man, he had a good sense of humour and enjoyed family times. He wasn't a man to be stopped and was very loving and caring. He seemed to have enjoyed his life, and I believe he learnt to live with his condition as he lived as if he didn't have it.

26. It was not until the last couple of years of his life that it became apparent that he was suffering greatly as a result of his condition. HCV affected his concentration, which caused him problems at work and he became unable to drive in the last six months of his life. At some point he started struggling to stand, which made preaching very difficult but he found away round it.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

27. I believe that my husband was offered counselling at the time of his diagnosis, but he refused it as he did not believe that he needed it. As stated above, he was a very strong man, with a very strong sense of vocation, and he seemed to be deal with his condition quite well; however, I cannot be certain that it did not cause him distress.

28. He also had the support of his family.

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I believe that he would have gained some support from his brother, as well.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

29. As a result of my husband's brother involvement with the Haemophilia Society he found out about the financial assistance available and told my husband. We were not given any information about financial support from any other source at that time.

30. I recall that my husband received an initial payment in the late 90's from the Skipton Fund; however I do not remember the exact amount. I remember that it was thousands of pounds and we made some home improvements to our house in Poole.

31. Later we applied for further financial assistance from the Skipton Fund however, it was denied, as apparently my husband was not ill enough. This was before he was diagnosed with cancer in 2006. My husband did eventually receive financial support; however, I do not remember the amount. I recall that it was also thousands of pounds.

32. I also received a payment of £25,000 after my husband passed away. It was a straight forward application process, however I had to apply very quickly as a deadline was approaching.

33. I am not aware of any pre-conditions imposed on the payments made to my husband.

34. What I have realised about the various funds and trusts is that they were not commonly known about at the time. We were never advised about them through any formal route. I only found out that the final payment from the Skipton Fund was available to me after my husband died because his Consultant Haematologist wrote to me to tell me I was entitled to a payment so I applied.

Section 8. Other Issues

35. I am dissatisfied with the lack of information about my husband's infection, and also that there was no follow up after his diagnosis.

36. Our family believe that my husband died prematurely as a result of his infection, and we have lost years of family life together which is a great sadness to us all.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

37. I confirm that I do not wish to have anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the inquiry.

38. However I do not wish to be called to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Patricia Ann Nowberry

Dated

~~December 2018~~

24th January 2019