

Witness Name: K Newhouse

Statement No: WITN1429001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: February 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KIM NEWHOUSE

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I, Kim Newhouse, will say as follows:-

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is Kim Newhouse of GRO C  
GRO C. My date of birth is GRO C 1957. I am no longer able to work due to ill health and I live with my mother.
2. I am an affected person in relation to my late father, Gerald Edward Newhouse, who received contaminated blood products. He passed away on 16.02.2010.
3. This statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

#### **Section 2. How Affected**

4. My father was one of four brothers, all of whom had Haemophilia. My father's oldest brother, Reginald, passed away in or around 1940 due to reasons connected with his Haemophilia. Maurice died in or around 1954 following a

fatal bleed. David passed away in 2017 following his infection with Hepatitis C from contaminated blood products.

5. My father received Factor VIII from in or around the late 1970's and was infected with Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and vCJD ("Cows" disease) in the early 1980's.
6. My father attended various hospitals to obtain treatment, although the main one was Whitechapel Hospital, London where he was under the care of Dr Colvin. I also recall that my father attended the Edinburgh Hospital, Scotland, following a bleed which occurred whilst he was on holiday.
7. In or around the early 1980's, my father was asked to attend Whitechapel Hospital for a meeting with Dr Colvin. I drove my father and my sister to the hospital and dropped them off. During the appointment, Dr Colvin advised my father that he had been infected with Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and "Cows" disease as a result of receiving contaminated blood from America.
8. Dr Colvin provided enough information for my father to realise that these infections were very serious and that they would have a significant impact on his health and life expectancy.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

9. Dr Colvin advised my father that he had been infected with "Cows" disease.

### **Section 4. Consent**

10. I am unsure as to whether my father was tested or treated without his knowledge or consent.

## **Section 5. Impact**

11. Soon after my father found out about his infections, he attempted suicide by putting a pair of scissors into an electrical outlet. Following this incident, my father was admitted to a psychiatric ward at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford. However, following his stay as an inpatient he was discharged because consultants were unable to improve his mental state. From this point onwards, my mother had to watch him for 24 hours per day in order to safeguard him which included accompanying him to the bathroom.
12. The infections meant that my father had to live with terrible depression which affected his life greatly and it also affected my mother and me. In fact, my mother was significantly hurt and it impacted upon our family life in a very negative way. Life was not good for us as a family. We used to holiday as a family but following my father's infections, we no longer went away.
13. My father's physical health deteriorated soon after he was infected. He could not walk, dress or wash himself. He suffered with severe arthritis in his joints and he had two knee and two hip replacements. He had a carer to look after him and to keep him company.
14. I don't believe that my father underwent any treatment to clear his Hepatitis C.
15. My father kept himself to himself and apart from confiding in the immediate family, he never told anyone about his infections. He therefore managed to avoid any potential stigma.
16. In relation to the financial effects resulting from my father's infection, our family really struggled because there was not enough money to go around. My parents owned a driving school and they were both instructors. My father was a fantastic teacher and he taught me how to drive. My father eventually had to give up work completely but my mother continued to run the family business.

17. I trained to be a mechanical engineer and successfully completed my apprenticeship. I worked at a sugar beet factory upon qualification. I do miss having my father around as he would have been so proud of what I had achieved.

18. The impact that my father's infections and death had on me were that I became extremely sad and depressed. I did not really have any support from anybody.

19. I am disabled and I have Parkinson's disease and Epilepsy. I had a stroke in 2013 following which I "*died 4 times*" and was hospitalised at Broomfields Hospital. Due to my poor health, I have been unable to work since 2013.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

20. I do not think that my father suffered any difficulties or obstacles accessing treatment or support. However, I don't believe that he was provided with any psychiatric support.

21. I have been offered counselling in relation to my father's infections, his subsequent passing and due to the fact that following my stroke I "*died 4 times*". However, I did not want to take up this offer.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

22. I do not know whether my father or mother received any financial assistance from any of the Trusts.

23. I did not receive any financial assistance from any of the Trusts.

## **Section 8. Other Issues/Conclusion**

24. The Government should admit that negligently allowed contaminated blood to be imported from America to the UK. This contaminated blood was then given to innocent Haemophiliacs.
25. The number of people affected and lives lost as a result of this awful chain of events is both harrowing and unacceptable.
26. The conservative Government should be held accountable because saying "sorry" is, quite frankly, not good enough.
27. People should be appropriately compensated for their struggles.

## **Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

28. I do not wish to apply for anonymity and, due to my disability, I do not wish to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed..... **GRO C** .....

Dated... 18-02-2019 .....