Witness Name: Ian Clifford Price
Statement No: WITN1478001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: June 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF IAN CLIFFORD PRICE

I, Ian Clifford Price, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Ian Clifford Price. My date of birth is GRO-C 1967 and I live at GRO-C GRO-C Northamptonshire GRO-C

2. I am married with 3 daughters. I am currently a Freelance IT consultant.

3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Infected

4. I have mild/moderate Haemophilia A. I was diagnosed when I was 13 months old after I had a fall and injured my mouth. As a child I was told that I had 2% clotting factor and was therefore considered 'moderate'. Now I have been advised that I have 7% clotting factor (via a different test) which puts me in the mild category.

5. I have always been taking Factor VIII concentrate (FVIII). I remember vividly that on one occasion during my childhood I received FVIII concentrate from an American Company called Cutter Biological.

6. I was under the care of the Oxford Haemophilia Centre at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford (OHC). My primary consultants were Dr GRO-D and Dr GRO-D both of whom I actively saw at the centre. Later on my consultant changed to Dr GRO-D I believe I was one of the first children in or about 1977 to be given home treatment (on FVIII); I think I was about 10 at the time. As a child, I used a lot of FVIII as I had a problematic target joint in my left ankle. I received it multiple times per month, involving regular trips to OHC.

7. In or about the late 70s/early 80s I started Prophylaxis treatment as the doctors thought it would be better for me. The prophylaxis was administered once per fortnight.

8. My parents were told by the consultants (named below) that under no circumstances should I be given any American blood products, so it was traumatic for me when I found out that it was given to me (on one occasion).

9. As a result of receiving FVIII, I was infected with Hepatitis B (Hep B) and Hepatitis C (Hep C). It was traumatic to find out that I had contacted Hepatitis despite being vigilant about avoiding American products and only using British FVIII.

10. I was told that I had Hep B when I was a young child, I recall being off school for a month. I wasn't given any antivirals for it, it just cleared by itself after lengthy bed rest.

11. I was told that I had Non A Non B (NANB) when I was about 21 years old as it wasn't called Hep C then. I went to the OHC because I was feeling poorly. The hospital carried out blood tests and that was when I was told that I had NANB. I remember being told that it was possible that I contracted it through dirty lettuce or other environmental factors. There was a suspicion that it could've been an environmental borne disease relating to food and there was

a suggestion that an investigation may be required at my place of work. It was later discovered that I contracted Hep C through contaminated blood products.

12. I recall being told to take time off from work and rest. Information about Hep C was provided to me in dribs and drabs over the years. At the time I did not realise how serious Hep C was, I simply believed it was just another occurrence (as I had experienced as a younger child – with Hep B). I believe I was not given adequate information to help me understand and manage the infection. I do not remember the infection being a big concern and therefore did not take it seriously. I do recall being told that there was a possible risk of passing the infection onto partners and to use condoms and have safe sex, but I was told this much later, again it was fairly informal with little or no sense of the gravity of the situation.

13. It was not until approximately 20 years later when a liver specialist (Dr. Jane Collier) at OHC / John Radcliffe said that I should have a liver biopsy so that they could assess the true state of my liver. Dr.Collier shared the results with my wife and I and confirmed that I had Hep C and 'Level 6' Cirrhosis of the liver. The recommendation was that I required combination treatment to try and eradicate the Hep C. This was when I found out how serious the situation was. Up and until that point it was just portrayed that I had the infection, I had nothing to worry about and I was to just carrying on with life.

14. Over the years I was going for check ups and blood tests for my haemophilia so that I could continue to receive FVIII. I was always more worried about contracting HIV as a teenager as it was such a big thing then (in the 1980's). There was more attention in the media in relation to HIV than Hep C (which didn't even have this name when I contracted it – NANB).

Section 3. Other Infections

15. I believe in the late 1990s, I received a letter to suggest that I might have been in an elevated risk category for vCJD. The letter stated that I was exposed to a batch of FVIII which contained blood from a vCJD sufferer. I had no follow

up appointments or consultations after that and I haven't received any further material.

Section 4. Consent.

16. My parents were told throughout my childhood by the above consultants not to let anyone use American blood products on me. I am now wondering what the hell was going on and why they would repeatedly say that if they were already aware of the risks in the British FVIII products. When I was younger I had the opportunity to go to Treloar College and I did not take it, I am very glad that I didn't go to the school given the devastating impacts on the other attendees.

17. I do not believe that I was treated or tested without my consent. At the time it never felt like that. I think that the whole situation was communicated to me poorly or they didn't know what was going on themselves. I may be naïve but I did not have any sort of indication to make me think otherwise.

18. I cannot say if I was treated or tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

19. I had a liver biopsy 20 years after contracting NANB. I was a father of 3 young daughters at the time of my liver biopsy results and to be told of the seriousness of Hep C was like receiving a death sentence. My consultant (Dr. Jane Collier) informed my GP of the test results from the liver biopsy and she thought my GP had relayed the results back to me, which he did not. When I had an appointment with the consultant I was then told that I had cirrhosis. This shocked me and my wife and it really upset us. It was a huge bombshell, a huge blow.

20. Physically, I was always tired but I never thought it was as a result of the Hep C. The liver consultant (Dr. Jane Collier) and her team at Oxford John Radcliffe were brilliant and they provided me with all the information that I needed. I now have an enlarged spleen as a result of the Hep C / Cirrhosis and slight varices in my oesophagus. I now go for regular liver tests (blood

tests and ultrasounds scans) under my gastro consultant (Dr.Das) at Kettering General Hospital.

21. Approximately 15 years ago I started a 12 month course of treatment with Interferon and Ribavirin at the John Radcliffe Hospital. The treatment consisted of daily tablets and weekly injections. The treatment cleared the infection. At the time when I was on the treatment, I was told that the chances of clearing the infection was very low, but luckily for me I had a positive result.

22. As a result of the infection, I have been left with cirrhosis, which is now monitored by my consultant, Dr Das at Kettering General Hospital.

23. I believe that I should have been told about the potential implications of Hep C a lot earlier, closer to when I was first told that I had NANB rather than 20 years later. 20 years is a long time to live with such an issue without understanding the real implications.

24. During the treatment I suffered from mental and physical effects. I was fatigued. I took the Interferon injection on a Thursday and the next day I would be completely wiped out. Luckily at the time I didn't work on Fridays as I had a very understanding employer that gave me the time off. I used to stand in the shower every morning and think about how old my children would be if I was to die from Hep C related issues. During that year, not knowing what was going to happen was very difficult for me and there were often media stories about the devastating impacts of Hep C on the haemophiliac community. I had thoughts of loneliness. I had young daughters and it was really hard for me and my wife. After 6 months, the virus was in decline which was a positive thing for me and my wife and the positive result kept us going through the twelve months treatment.

25. I found it difficult to have dental care at a local dentist. I was told that I had to have special treatment where the equipment had to be thrown away after being used on me. I therefore had to go to the hospital for all my dental treatment, as local dentists were reluctant to treat me.

26. Before the results of my liver biopsy were known (some 20 years after initial infection with NANB) my social life was unaffected. I lived a normal life socialising and drinking with my friends, maybe a bit more than I should have in the circumstances. After I was told the results of the biopsy and the seriousness of the state of my liver (Cirrhosis) I stopped drinking altogether (for a number of years). I would have stopped drinking earlier if I was told of the future implications. I was therefore affected as drinking was a big part of our social life at the time.

27. I definitely believe that my wife was affected when I was advised of the results of my liver biopsy and when I was on the twelve month treatment programme. I know she had her own private moments and at times she felt it was a 'death sentence'.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

28. I cannot remember if I was offered any counselling or psychological support. If I was offered it, I would not have taken it as I have a good family support and I did not see that there was any high level of risk to my health.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

29. I have received the Stage 1 payment in the sum of £25,000 from the Skipton Fund. I believe I received the above payment just before I started treatment.

30. I also received the Stage 2 payment in the sum of £45,000 from the Skipton Fund. My liver consultant (Dr. Jane Collier) had to do a lot of tests and write a report before I could get the payment. I believe I received this payment approximately a year after receiving the Stage 1 payment.

31. I now receive a monthly payment in the sum of £1,500 from the EIBSS.

32. The above applications were straight forward and I had no challenges. I did not pursue any other funds as they are means tested.

Section 8. Other Issues

33. My disposition is that this was a badly communicated "cock up". If it was negligence on the part of the NHS, then I believe the payments are not enough. The irony for me is that two of my consultants GRO-D and GRO-D warned me and my parents repeatedly not to use American blood products, but they never explained the risks from British FVIII. The ultimate point being that I still contracted Hep C!

34. I have to pay higher premiums than normal people would for travel insurance and I believe that had the Hep C / Cirrhosis not happened, I would not be expected to pay such premiums.

35. Access to life insurance is an issue for people that have Hep C and/or liver related diseases. I am therefore always conscious that I personally need to financially plan for such an eventuality.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

36. I do not wish to apply for anonymity.

37. I do not mind giving oral evidence at the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed. GRO-C ....

Dated 10/06/19