

Witness Name: John Hogg  
Statement No.: WITN2160001  
Exhibits: None  
Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JOHN HOGG

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

I, John Hogg, will say as follows: -

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

1. My name is John Hogg. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1949 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about my father James Simpson Brown Hogg who was born on the GRO-C 1924 and passed away on the GRO-C 2006 from hepatitis C. I will speak in particular about the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment he received and the impact it had on his and our lives together as a family.
2. I do not wish to remain anonymous for this statement.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

3. My Dad was a very nice person. He was outgoing and liked to enjoy his life, he would go out for drinks and meet his friends whenever he could. He was a keen gardener when he had the time and liked to go for long drives. My Dad had many jobs over the years, he was a bus driver, a butcher and he was a lorry driver before he retired. I had a very good relationship with Dad and he was a man I was proud to know.
4. In the 1980s Dad had a triple heart bypass and an operation to remove blockages from his neck. These were very significant operations. The records for these procedures no longer exist and when they did exist, contained no proper information that would allow us years later, to definitively confirm that he received a blood transfusion.
5. In 1998 I cannot remember exactly when, Dad came home from a funeral. When he returned home on first impressions, he appeared to be drunk. He was staggering when he walked and was not making a lot of sense. My Mum sent for a doctor at the Tranent Health Centre and when he assessed Dad, he said that he was suffering from quite serious anaemia and would need to go to hospital. Dad was then rushed to the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh where he received a blood transfusion in response to his serious anaemic state. After he had received the transfusion, Dad was still very unwell and stayed in hospital for a number of weeks. I remember going to visit him and he was very jaundiced, his skin was shockingly yellow. In fact, I remember Dad being told that he had developed jaundice and that it was nothing to worry about. I know now that the jaundice was most likely a result of his infection. Shortly after that however, his condition improved and he was permitted to return home.
6. I believe that it is also possible that Dad was infected with hepatitis C in 1998 after this transfusion. I have been advised that blood transfusions were considered "safe" in 1998, however I believe that mistakes can happen and I don't believe it is a coincidence that he turned yellow after this transfusion.

7. As far as I am aware, Dad did not receive any information about the potential risk of infection posed by his blood transfusions.
8. Dad was never officially diagnosed with hepatitis C, we only discovered that he had the infection when he died. Shortly before his death, Dad became unwell and was admitted to Roodlands Hospital in Haddington. He spent a number of weeks there before he died. During his time there, the doctors knew there was something wrong with his liver but they didn't say what. His health deteriorated very quickly after he was admitted and the doctors eventually said there was nothing more they could do for him as he was going to die. Around a year before this, Dad was admitted to the same hospital with very similar liver problems but he recovered and was allowed to return home, which I find very strange. The records no longer exist.
9. I think the fact that my Dad was never diagnosed with hepatitis C was very questionable. There were never any attempts to link his liver issues with his blood transfusions and I can't understand why that connection was never made.
10. The first time Mum and I were told about Dad's infection was when he died and we were arranging the funeral. My uncle wanted to go to the funeral parlour and see my Dad one last time before the funeral, but the undertaker told him that the coffin had to be sealed because my Dad had died as a result of hepatitis C. That was the first we had heard about Dad having the infection. I was shocked that we hadn't been told, but at the same time, I didn't know what the infection was. In any case, I think the fact that the hospital had passed that information on to the funeral parlour and not to his family was unacceptable.

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

11. As far as I am aware, my Dad did not contract any other infections other than hepatitis C as a result of his blood transfusions.

#### **Section 4. Consent**

12. I do not know whether Dad was ever treated or tested without his knowledge or consent.
13. I do not know whether Dad was ever treated or tested for the purposes of research.

#### **Section 5. Impact**

14. I cannot say what impact the infection had on my Dad mentally.
15. Dad lost a lot of weight shortly before he was admitted to Roodlands Hospital before his death in 2006, but I cannot say whether that was caused by the infection. I am unaware of physical symptoms that he may have experienced as a result of the infection.
16. I cannot say whether Dad developed any further medical complications or conditions because of his infection.
17. My Dad died with undiagnosed hepatitis C so there was never any discussion with him relating to treatment.
18. My Dad's infection did not affect his family life in the sense that he did not know he had the infection. I think he knew that he was very ill and that he might die, but the infection did not affect his life because he didn't know it was there.
19. Up until the day Dad was admitted to hospital in 2006, he was still going out for drinks with his friends and keeping busy. He had a very active social life until he was hospitalised.
20. It's very hard to talk about how this affected me. All I can say is that he died before his time in 2006 and we all still miss him.

21. Neither my family nor I have ever suffered from any of the stigma associated with a hepatitis C diagnosis.
22. It is hard to say how my Dad's infection, or at least his diagnosis, affected the rest of my family. My Mum is a very private person but I know that she was devastated when she found out about the infection. She recovered mentally after hearing about the infection, but it took some time.
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23. My Dad was retired before his infection so it did not have any effect on his professional life.

#### **Section 6. Treatment, Care and Support**

24. I am not aware of my Dad facing any difficulties in obtaining either treatment, care or support.
25. I do not know whether counselling or psychological support would have assisted Dad.

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

26. Dad did not receive any financial assistance in relation to his infection.
27. We made an application to the Skipton Fund in 2008. The application was rejected because the only transfusion that was noted was the one that occurred in 1998. On the application it was noted that there were other procedures prior to 1990, but there were no details in the records about these procedures. This includes a heart bypass and an operation Dad had to remove blockages in his neck in the 1980s.
28. It is extremely distressing to me that the application was rejected. I believe it is possible that Dad could have been infected as late as 1998 from the

transfusion he received then, mistakes do happen. However it is also possible that he was infected in the 1980s and because there are no records that confirm the details of this, the application has been denied.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

29. I have nothing else to bring to the Inquiry's attention.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_

Dated Jul 27, 2021