

Witness Name: C. A. Durrant

Statement No:WITN1201001

Exhibits:0

Dated: August 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE ANNE DURRANT

I, CHRISTINE ANNE DURRANT will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Christine Anne Durrant. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1958. My current address is GRO-C
2. I am married and I live with my husband and we do not have any children.
3. I make this statement on behalf of my late father John Henry Waller (D.O.B GRO-C 28) who was infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) through contaminated blood and passed away on 13th February 2001 at the age of 72.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's 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

5. My father suffered with mild Haemophilia, type A with 15% of the normal Factor VIII level in his blood.
6. On 14th June 1983 my father underwent a routine hernia repair operation and received massive amounts of Factor VIII concentrate (FVIII) as a precaution before, during and after the operation at Maidstone Hospital. The operation was uneventful with no abnormal bleeding of any kind. The severity of his haemophilia was so mild that he didn't need treatment on a regular basis. He was under the care of Mr Peter Fenn and Dr H J H Williams.
7. As far as I am aware my father was not given any information about any potential risks of infection. There is no way that my father would have given his consent for the operation if he thought he was at any risk of infection.
8. My father was readmitted to hospital 2 weeks after his operation where he complained that his urine had been orange and his motions pale and he had experienced abdominal fullness and loss of appetite. I refer to exhibit xxx which is a copy my fathers Treatment Record Form (Form C2) which identifies the batch numbers of the Factor VIII Concentrate that my father received and a note written by Dr Williams that states, "A clear cut case of Non A – Non B hepatitis due to Factor VIII Concentrate." It is also states that the date of the onset of hepatitis was the 13th July 1983.
9. A letter from Dr HJH Williams, Consultant Haematologist at Maidstone Hospital dated 12th March 2001 to the Coroners Officer stated, "Dr Hayes suspected infectious hepatitis which at that time was called Non A, Non B as the causative agent had not been identified. Liver function tests confirmed acute hepatitis, with high liver enzymes and he was reassured with the information that this should settle spontaneously and cause no further trouble. Hepatitis B which at the time was considered to be the serious from of transfusion induced Hepatitis was excluded by finding a negative Hepatitis B antigen test. The patient was discharged from follow up at that point."

10. My father was sent from the hospital without any treatment or follow up plan and he was referred back to his GP where his care would be managed.

11. In 1992 my father moved house and he became a patient of Canterbury Hospital. I understand that he wasn't well and he went to the hospital where he displayed signs of chronic liver problems. I believe this is when he first found out that he had been infected with Hepatitis C.

12. We used to read the magazine Private Eye and the Newspaper so we were aware that there was an issue with people being infected from contaminated blood. However until he was admitted into hospital we had no idea that he had been infected with contaminated blood.

13. At the time my father was diagnosed with Hepatitis C I wasn't living in the UK so I am not aware of the information that was provided to him in regards to his infection.

14. I don't personally believe that my father was told that he contracted Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood. However his medical notes that we were sent state that he had been told he had received contaminated blood. He knew he had an infection but I don't believe he was ever told explicitly what it was. He knew something because he was embarrassed about being nursed in a separate room, but he didn't know what he was infected with.

Section 3. Other Infections

15. I am not aware of my father being infected with anything other than Hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

16. I don't believe my father thought he was treated or tested without his knowledge. My father was from a generation where they absolutely trusted the medical professionals and would not question a doctor. He would have assumed that they knew what they were doing and accepted what was said to him.

17. I do believe my father was treated without being given full information.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

18. My father thought what happened to him was an accident. When I asked him about it he told me the doctors that had given him the Factor VIII didn't know that it was contaminated.

19. In September 1992 nine years after he had been infected my father became very ill and he was seen by Dr Drake at Canterbury Hospital suffering with liver problems. It was during that visit my father was told he had been given contaminated blood whilst he was in Maidstone hospital in 1983. My father subsequently didn't tell my mother until 1995.

20. My father was under the combined care of Dr Sebastian Barton, Consultant Gastroenterologist and Dr Mark Winter, the Haemophilia Centre Director. He was in and out of hospital due to transient episodes of acute liver failure from that point. On the 25th January 2001 my father complained of feeling unwell and was vomiting. He was collected by an ambulance and admitted into Kent & Canterbury Hospital (Beresford Jones Ward) where he stayed for three weeks. On 12th February 2001 my father vomited all night and his health deteriorated rapidly resulting in his death at 07.30 hours on 13th February 2001.

21. At the inquest the Deputy Coroner stated the cause of death was attributable to Chronic liver disease, Hepatitis C Infection and Haemophilia.

22. I have reviewed some of my father's medical notes and what they do not show is the day to day discomfort and suffering that my father had to endure. When I did go home and visit my father I would see the extent of how bad his health was, the sleepless nights, the loss of appetite and the pain he had in his stomach. There was so much behind all the admissions into hospital.
23. I don't think that my father received any form of treatment for the infection and none of his medical documents show that he was ever given anything.
24. As far as I know my father didn't face any difficulties or obstacles in accessing treatment because he wasn't given any treatment at all for the infection.
25. I accompanied my father once to see Dr Mark Winter at the Kent Haemophilia Centre and I recall that I asked him, 'if we were a wealthy family would we have received different treatment or care'. He said no and informed me that my father was given '*every treatment available*'. I don't think we have any complaints about that hospital because by the time he was there the damage to his liver had been done and it was a case of managing the condition.
26. Apart from the fact my dad was a mild haemophiliac he never had any other problems or sickness in his life. I think he only ever had two weeks off work his whole working life until the last year of his life and that was attributable to the acute liver failure.
27. My father should really still be here now and if he hadn't received contaminated blood I am sure that he would be. He exercised, he didn't smoke or drink. His grandparents lived well into their 80s and 90s.
28. I have since lost my mother and my younger brother. I think it's an injustice that we all felt. I still feel guilty and that I should have done more but I don't know what I could have done.
29. My mum and I knew that my father was going to die because he was getting sicker and sicker and his stays in hospital were for longer and longer. I came

back to the UK and my mum and I were called into hospital. We were taken into a side room and told that things were bad. I was a nurse and I was very aware and I knew that being called into a side room was really not a good sign. I am not sure how aware my mother was but I didn't want to worry her too much. My mother was obviously concerned and had so much to deal with but I knew we were there to hear the worst. However it was still a shock when it happened.

30. My mother was not independent at all and she was very dependent on my father. She didn't drive or even know how to write a cheque. So it came down to my brother and me to take care of her. My mother died 8 years after my father. He should have been there for my mum but he had been taken from us. My mother felt his life was cut short as well and there was a sense of injustice. He deserved a good retirement and he didn't get that. We all desperately missed him.

31. Luckily my mother was financially stable after the passing of my father. He had taken care of her financially. We sold her bungalow and she moved to an aunt's house in [GRO-C].

32. My father's infection and subsequent death has had a huge effect on me. I feel anger and guilt and I miss my father. [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] we lived in France so that was a problem getting to the UK to see my father. My brother lived in London and worked, between us we helped as and when we could. I remember being torn trying to decide who needed me more at the time. We are a pragmatic, down to earth family and these things just had to be dealt with which we did. Its only looking back I realise how much we had to deal with.

33. I know that was a relief for my father when he was told he didn't have HIV.. I don't think people knew too much about it then and as a family we just didn't tell anyone about it.

34. We were obviously worried about the chances that my mother had been infected. My father would often have bleeds towards the end of his life and we wondered if we had also been infected. I remember the doctor's told us it would be very difficult to have been infected with Hepatitis C that way.

35. My brother felt the same way that I did. He was very close to our father. He felt disbelief he wasn't here anymore. I think we were both very concerned about mum. He definitely felt the injustice and anger that I did. He deeply missed his father.

36. Luckily enough I haven't worked for a long time so I was in a position where I could travel to and from the UK when I needed too. I lived in France for seven and a half years from 1994 and I moved to Spain in 2002. My husband was in the army so we moved often and we also spent some time in Germany and Africa. We left the UK when we were in our 20's. When I lived in France I could get the Eurostar and when I lived in Spain I would fly.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

37. I am not sure if my father was ever offered any counselling or psychological help.

38. My family was never offered anything at all.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

39. My father didn't receive any financial assistance. We never received anything at all while my father was alive. We didn't know any trusts or grants even existed.

40. Last year my husband saw something on the internet that said we may be entitled to some money. I applied and received two separate payments of £50,000 and £20,000. This is the only money ever received.

Section 8. Other Issues

41. I would like to know how much the pharmaceutical industry was involved in the cover up of this scandal.

Anonymity

42. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

43. I do 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

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Dated.....02/08/19.....