

Witness Name: Kirsty Victoria MacRae

Statement No: WITN1362001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 2 May 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KIRSTY VICTORIA MACRAE

I, Kirsty Victoria MacRae will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Kirsty Victoria MacRae and I was born on GRO-C 1982. I live at GRO-C Liverpool, GRO-C with my partner. We do not have any children and I work as a civil servant.
2. I make this statement in relation to my late father, Peter MacRae, who passed away on 7th November 1991 when I was 9 years old.
3. I am aware that my older sister, Elizabeth Jane MacRae, and my mother, Shirley Amy MacRae also intend to provide statements to the Inquiry.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. I understand my father had severe Haemophilia A and as a result he received blood products including Factor VIII concentrate.
6. He was always under the care of Royal Liverpool University and Broadgreen Hospital in Liverpool.
7. I believe my father started being treated with Factor VIII shortly after I was born, so from about 1983 onwards.
8. I am not aware if any information or advice was given to my father before he was treated with blood products about the risk of being exposed to infection from blood products.
9. My father contracted Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) as well as Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of receiving Factor VIII. He discovered he had been infected in around 1984/85. I believe he was tested at hospital. The hospital did not tell him he was being tested and then did not tell him for about 6 months afterwards that that he had been infected.
10. I do not know what my father was told by the hospital when he received the diagnosis but he did not tell my mother for quite a while. Neither do I know if he was given adequate information to manage the infection.
11. I do not know if my father was told about the risk of others being infected as a result of his infection but his job was in a university laboratory at the time so I presume he may have known a little about the infections himself already.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I believe my father may have had and was treated for Hepatitis A and B as well, other than those I am not aware of my father having any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

13. I definitely believe that my father was tested without his consent from one of the blood samples he had given at a hospital review.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

14. I do not remember too much about my father and a lot of what I remember I may have been told by my mother and sister.

15. Apparently, my father was once outgoing and funny although I only remember him lying in bed all day. He did not really get up out of bed that much; I assume this was due to being depressed. My mother also told me that my father was addicted to painkillers.

16. My mother tried to get my father to come out with us and interact which he did to some degree but not really very much. After school I would normally go to my grandparents' house, (my mother's parents) they lived opposite us. My father was not involved with me too much and in particular he could not look after me. I did not know him too well.

17. I was told that as my father had HCV his face went all puffy and yellow and he put on a lot of weight which affected his knee (previously injured and healed poorly as a result of Haemophilia) and he could not move it well.

18. When my father died my mother tried to shield my sister and me as much as possible.

19. I know that my father spent the last few months of his life in hospital before he died and in the last few days of his life a social worker came to speak to me and my sister. She explained that our father probably would not last much longer as well as the severity of what was going on and what would happen.
20. My mother told me that my father lost a lot of teeth because of his condition and if he required any dental treatment he went to a dental hospital as a local dentist would not treat him.
21. My mother had to work full time as my father could not work. We had just moved house after my father was diagnosed and there was a mortgage on the house so she was forced to work. My sister and I used to go to my grandparents' house all day and so we hardly saw my mother during the week. At weekends she would do the housework and shopping so our 'family time' was restricted. Also we never really had any money to enjoy ourselves. I effectively did not see my mother from 7.30 am when she left to 5.30pm when she got back; it was hard on her. My mother went back to work after two months after having me as she could not afford to live on the maternity payments; money was tight.
22. I do not know how my father's condition has affected me. I have always tried not to dwell on it or let it affect me or anything about me, nor stop me from doing whatever I wanted to do. Some people have had infections so much worse and I think I am a bit distant from it all as I only ever knew my father as an ill man and as a result I was not as close to him as I should have been. I did not feel a connection with my father as much as my sister did; it affected my sister more as she knew him before he was infected.
23. I never hid anything about my father's infection. I did not think there was anything to be ashamed of as it was not his fault; I have always therefore told anyone who asks about his illness. The stigma was a lot worse back in the 1980's, but today most people I know, know about my father. I hope people understand nowadays.

24. When my father was alive I think only his close friends and family knew; but nothing was really openly talked about. I do not know who he told.

25. My mother's parents always used to look after my sister and me. They were retired and so their lives were affected by this burden placed on them. My grandfather had a triple heart bypass when I was about 4 or 5 years old and so he was not well himself. The situation would have been particularly hard on him.

26. My father's mother outlived her children and her husband and this really affected her when her son (my father) died.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

27. As far as I am aware I was never offered any counselling or psychological support; I am not aware whether my father ever was either.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

28. I do not know much about any money my mother received, other than that she did get some money a couple of years ago from the Skipton Fund.

Section 8. Other Issues

29. I am very happy that the Inquiry is finally being held; it is about time it was.

30. Hopefully the Inquiry will find out the truth and who decided to make these poor people test subjects.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

31. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

32. I do wish to be called to give oral evidence if I can assist the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed... **GRO-C**

Kirsty Victoria MacRae

Dated: 9 May 2019