

Witness Name: Dawn Barratt

Statement No.: WITN3538001

Exhibits: WITN3538002 – WITN3538003

Dated: 14 September 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAWN BARRATT

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I, Dawn Barratt, will say as follows:

#### Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Dawn Barratt. My date of birth is GRO-C 1965 and my address is  
GRO-C. I live with my partner  
and son.

#### Section 2: How exposed to infected blood products

##### *Von Willebrand Disease ("VWD")*

2. I believe that I had just started school when I was diagnosed with moderate VWD. I had a bleed in my elbow and my mother took me to see the GP. I was referred to the Pendlebury Children's Hospital in Manchester and initially they thought that I had leukaemia but I was diagnosed with VWD. I would have started to receive treatment from that point but it is not something which I need every day, my treatment is 'on demand', for example if I injure myself or in preparation for surgery of any kind. I have been treated with Cryoprecipitate and Factor VIII.

3. I was initially treated at the Pendlebury Children's Hospital and my care transferred to the Manchester Royal Infirmary when I think I was a teenager but I cannot say for certain. Pendlebury Children's Hospital no longer exists. Due to the passage of time, I cannot recall the names of my clinicians.
4. As far as I am aware, my parents were never informed about the risks of the blood products which I was receiving and I was never informed about the risks when I was old enough to understand them myself. It was just a matter of being told by my clinicians what I needed and we had trust in the medical profession.

#### *Exposure to vCJD*

5. I received a letter dated 19 February 2009 with an enclosure informing me that because I had been treated with clotting factors made from UK sourced plasma between 1980 to 2001, I had an increased risk of being exposed to vCJD [WITN3538002]. The enclosure provided advice on how to reduce the risk of spreading vCJD to other people but apart from this, I did not receive any other information and I was not spoken to about it by any of my clinicians.

#### **Section 3: Other infections**

6. I have not been informed that I have contracted or been exposed to any other infections.

#### **Section 4: Consent**

7. I cannot recall being spoken to about Hepatitis C, HIV or any other infections or that I was being tested for them. As far as I am aware, my blood tests have all been routine.

## Section 5: Impact

### *Impact of being informed that I have been exposed to vCJD*

8. Knowing that I have been exposed to vCJD and not knowing what that means for the future does cause me some anxiety. I have a son who has additional needs who still lives at home with me and I worry about what will happen to him if I am taken ill. It is not something that I can simply remove from my thoughts.
9. Prior to my receipt of the correspondence referred to above, my mother, who sadly passed away recently, was so upset about the prospect of me being exposed to contaminated blood products that she felt compelled to write to our local Member of Parliament at the time that the Archer Inquiry was taking place [WITN3538003]. My mother was so distressed after I had received the letter informing me that I was at increased risk of contracting vCJD that we could not even talk to each other about it.

### *How exposed status has impacted on medical treatment and/or dental care*

10. To date, I have not experienced any issues with receiving medical treatment or dental care due to the fact that I have been exposed to vCJD.

### *Stigma*

11. I do not really talk to anyone about being exposed to vCJD, I try not to think about it. I feel that people would treat me differently, for example, they might be worried if they used the same cup. It's something that I do not feel the need to tell anyone.

## Section 6: Treatment, care, support

12. I have never been offered or received counselling in relation to being informed that I have been exposed to vCJD.

## Section 7: Financial assistance

13. I have never applied for or received any financial assistance from any of the Trusts or Funds that have been set up to distribute payments to individuals affected by contaminated blood.

## Section 8: Conclusion

14. I hope that the Inquiry can establish the truth about what was known about contaminated blood products and why patients were not told about the risks. A lot of people have tragically lost their lives or loved ones and I cannot comprehend how devastating that is or how that was allowed to happen.
15. I do not wish to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry but I am happy for my evidence to be public.

## Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Dawn Barratt

Dated:

14/9/2021