

Witness Name: Patricia Eileen Clayton

Statement No.: WITN3736001

Exhibits: None

Dated: December 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PATRICIA EILEEN CLAYTON

I, Patricia Eileen Clayton, will say as follows:-

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Patricia Eileen Clayton and my address is GRO-C
GRO-C. My date of birth is GRO-C 1936. I am a widow and I live on my own and I am a retired Librarian.
2. I provide this witness statement in relation to my son, Ian Richard Clayton, who was born on GRO-C 1963 and he passed away on 11 July 1993. He had been infected with HIV.

Section 2: How Infected

3. I was aware that there was haemophilia in our family prior to having Ian. I had had a son previously who died when he was one-year old with haemophilia. My husband and I arranged for Ian to be tested fairly soon after he was born and unfortunately he was diagnosed with Haemophilia A. Ian had medium to severe

haemophilia. My husband and I also adopted a daughter because we did not want to risk having another child who might be a haemophiliac.

4. Ian was not given much in the way of blood products when he was younger as at the time there was not much available. If he hurt himself, he would have to rest. In around 1966 or 1967 our GP had sent Ian to the hospital to be examined and that was when St James Hospital, Leeds took over his haemophilia care. When Ian was at junior school I remember having to rush him to the hospital on a number of occasions for blood products.
5. I do not recall what blood products Ian was given during this time but I believe he may have had cryoprecipitate initially. We were not informed of any risks involved in him having the products. However, we were informed that if he did not have them then he would have severe bleeds and probably die of them quite young.
6. Ian was treated without us being provided with any information on the products. We were aware, because it was on the news, that they were using products from America at one time because they were short of supplies in England.
7. When Ian was older he started to receive Factor VIII, I cannot recall when. When he was 18 years old Ian went to university in Norwich and I believe he attended the hospital there for his supplies. Once he left university Ian got a job as an Administration Officer at the Town Council in GRO-C Essex and moved there. I do not know where he received his supplies from whilst he was at GRO-C but I think it may have been Norwich.
8. Following that, in around 1983 or 1984, Ian went to live on the Island of Crete for a year and worked there as a teacher of English as a foreign language. He would have been 21 or 22 at the time. He took supplies of Factor VIII from St James's with him, which I understand had come from America. I believe this is when he was infected. After returning from Crete Ian came back to Nottingham

to live and he lived with his fiancée, who he had met at university. His supplies of Factor VIII were then from the Queens Hospital in Nottingham.

9. I do not know exactly when Ian found out he was infected or how he was informed, but I do know it was after he returned from Crete. I do not recall when Ian told me he had been infected. I do not believe that Ian was provided with any information on the infection at the time, but very little was known. My husband and I did not know how serious it would be. We were both working full time and we had our daughter. As Ian lived a distance away from us we did not see him on a regular basis and so we did not discuss it in great detail.
10. As a family we started to become more aware of what HIV was as it was on the news more following the death of Freddie Mercury who died in 1991.

Section 3: Other Infections

11. I am not aware that Ian had been infected with anything other than HIV.

Section 4: Consent

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

Section 5: Impact

13. As a child Ian had suffered with his knees in particular due to bleeds and they were swollen. This affected him in his adult life. He was able to get about normally, but he was not able to do any sport or anything physical.
14. After the diagnosis Ian became very depressed, especially when he had to give up work because he was not fit enough to carry on. Ian gave up work around a

year before he passed away. My husband and I did not realise how serious his illness was at the time.

15. In around June 1993 my husband and I went on holiday to Spain. Whilst on holiday we received a phone call from his fiancée. We were on a package holiday and not able to end our holiday early. His fiancée had implored us to return from holiday a bit earlier, but it was not easy for us to do so. We returned from holiday and I believe we flew in to Nottingham Airport and we went straight to see Ian at his flat in Nottingham. My husband and I were both shocked at how poorly he was. It was as though he had been hanging on to see us. My husband and I stayed with them at the flat so that we could be with him. Ian lived for about a fortnight or three weeks after our return from holiday.
16. I think that Ian would have probably returned home when his health deteriorated but for the fact that he had his devoted fiancée, who took good care of him. This was very harrowing time for her.
17. There was no medication for his HIV that I am aware of. Ian continued to receive his haemophilia treatment and I presume they made sure that the injections he received were then completely clean.
18. Once Ian had to give up work his social life also diminished. Neither he nor his fiancée had grown up in Nottingham and therefore they had no childhood friends around them. They did have a couple of friends in Nottingham, but as Ian's health deteriorated he was not able to socialise. His fiancée stayed with Ian and supported him throughout. She had obtained a degree at university, but she had never been career minded and so had not worked. I think that she ended up doing a bit of housework for people to get by after Ian had stopped working.
19. My husband and I realised they were struggling. When Ian had to stop working he did receive some money however, my husband and I also sent him money from time to time to help them.

20. I did not personally experience any stigma around Ian's HIV. Ian had moved away from home from the age of 16 and so people around where I live were not aware he had been infected with HIV. I know that Ian's best friend at school also moved away and we all lost touch with him. I am not aware that Ian experienced any stigma around his HIV.
21. My husband and I were very unhappy when Ian was diagnosed, but there was nothing we could do about it. It was difficult living so far away from him, but it was a comfort to us knowing that he had his fiancée to look after him. We just had to continue with our lives.
22. Ian passed away at his flat on 11 July 1993. We brought him back to GRO-C and he was then buried in North Nottinghamshire, which is where all of our family graves are.
23. The loss of Ian had a huge impact on myself and my husband. We had already lost one son to haemophilia and our second son, Ian, had seemed to be living as normal a life as he could and he was doing ok. When he became infected with HIV it ruined his life and also the lives of my husband, myself and his fiancée. My husband and I no longer have a living son. Ian had done so well during his life. As a child we would ensure that he was resting because of his bad knees and we had struggled through all of that, only for him to be taken away by something that was not his fault or our fault, it was devastating. He lived until he was 33 years old and was then killed by something not under our control.
24. His fiancée was so devastated by Ian's death. She had spent a long time caring for him and was totally devoted to him. I remember when my husband and I had returned from our holiday in Spain she was crying an awful lot and in despair herself. His fiancée and I have stayed in touch and she has now met someone new and has two children.

Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support

25. I am not aware that Ian ever had difficulty in obtaining treatment due to his HIV status. I know that Ian did not have much dental treatment because of the risk of bleeds and this could have been to do with his HIV status too, but I do not know for certain.
26. My husband and I were never offered counselling. I believe counselling had been offered to Ian and, I imagine, his fiancée. However, I do not know if they ever received any.

Section 7: Financial Assistance

27. I know that Ian received some financial assistance, which would have been unemployment benefit or perhaps disability allowance, but I am not sure. However, I know that it was not much.
28. I believe that he may have received a grant from The Haemophilia Society or another trust, but I am not aware of the details. The Macfarlane Trust does ring a bell with me.
29. They did not have much money, but they managed and as I have mentioned above, my husband and I would give them money and I believe that his fiancée's parents also helped out.

Section 8: Other Issues

30. I think that the main failing was that the UK was not self-sufficient in Factor VIII and the fact that we had to bring it over from America. That was the worst crime of this matter. They would have been aware of the required amounts to meet

demand beforehand and it was a steady demand so it is not as though it was needed unexpectedly.

31. I know it was accidental and that at the time they did not know this was happening, but blood donations were given from prisoners who were paid for their blood donations and America did not rely on reputable blood donors like we do in England.
32. Going forward I believe that the UK should be self-sufficient and not to obtain supplies from abroad. We have the expertise more than anybody else in the world.
33. I am happy for my evidence to be public but do not wish to provide oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Patricia Eileen Clayton

Dated.....

12th Dec 2021