

Witness Name: Paul Maguire

Statement No: WITN6902001

Exhibits: WITN6902002

Dated: December 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PAUL MAGUIRE

I, Paul Maguire, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Paul Maguire. I was born on GRO-C 1953 and I live at GRO-C

GRO-C
2. My father, Thomas Maguire (born on GRO-C 1919), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He died on 1st June 1987, aged 68. I refer to Exhibit WITN6414002, being a copy of my father's death certificate.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.



Section 2. How Affected

4. My father (Dad) had severe Haemophilia A, diagnosed at birth. He was under the care of the Haemophilia Centre at the Royal Free Hospital, London (RFH). Dad was treated with Cryoprecipitate initially and he then went on to Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate. I understand that he was treated with a variety of treatment products to include Factorate, manufactured in the USA.
5. I relocated to South Africa with my wife and two children in 1982 but I had returned for a research and development laboratory work secondment in Manchester in 1984/1985. Dad was told that he was infected with HIV whilst we were home in England around the same time (1984/1985) albeit I think he had actually been infected with HIV in the very early 1980s.
6. Dad was told that he was infected with HIV at one of the routine appointments he attended (with my mother) every few months. He hadn't expected to hear anything out of the ordinary at the appointment and I do not think any of us fully understood the impact of it. There was a lot of confusion surrounding HIV and AIDS at that time, with AIDS being thought of as some sort of homosexual ailment. My parents told us that whilst Dad had been infected with HIV, it didn't necessarily mean that Dad would then contract AIDS.
7. Dad had several bouts of jaundice, particularly towards the end of his life. I graduated from University in 1974 and I remember Dad first being hospitalised with jaundice which prevented him attending my graduation awards ceremony held at the Royal Albert Hall. There were times that Dad turned intensely yellow and he was immensely itchy and scratchy. I don't think Dad knew that he was infected with HCV, then known as Non-A Non-B Hepatitis (as stated on his death certificate) and it certainly wasn't treated by people with the same significance as being infected with HIV.



Section 3. Other Infections

8. I am not aware of any other infection.

Section 4. Consent

9. Dad was not pre-warned about the risk of infection before being treated with blood products. I believe it likely that my father was tested for infection without his knowledge and consent. I do not think he knew he was being tested for HIV and Non-A Non-B Hepatitis.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

10. Dad looked after himself fairly well and they told him at the Haemophilia Centre that he was one of their oldest patients, but, having haemophilia affected Dad tremendously. He had failing, arthritic knee joints that ended up having to be pinned (as it was before the days of knee replacement surgery).
11. My parents always took precautions around Dad's needles and any blood spillages. Dad walked very stiffly because of the fused knee joints and my two children (under 5 at that time) were a little wary of him as a result. Cross infection was a concern for Dad, and I think it true to say he became a bit standoffish with my son & daughter as a result. Outside our family circle and because of all the negative connotations, we kept Dad's HIV status to ourselves.



12. When Dad found out that he was infected with HIV, he resigned himself to having one more thing to deal with as he had had such a troubled life with haemophilia anyway. I think he built a hard shell around himself and we didn't expect to lose him within two to three years.

13. Dad was extremely keen to come out to visit us in South Africa. He didn't make it. I am the youngest of three sons. I came back and all three of us were at the hospital with him when he passed away.

14. Dad died 34 years ago, and his grandchildren and great grandchildren were not able to build a relationship with him. There were viable alternative sources of blood products other than the USA. They didn't source it from the USA up in Scotland. A lot of lives were ruined by what happened and I would never want this to happen again.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. We had no counselling, care or support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

16. Dad had no financial help from the Trusts and Funds.

Anonymity

17. I do not seek anonymity and I understand that this Statement will be disclosed for publication to the Inquiry.



Statement of Truth

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

Signed.... GRO-C

Dated..... 23RD DEC 2021