



Witness Name: Carol Bradley

Statement No: WITN7635001

Exhibits: WITN7635002

Dated:

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

---

### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CAROL BRADLEY

---

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 10 January 2023.

I, Carol Bradley will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

1. My full name is Carol Lesley Bradley and my date of birth is GRO-C 1950. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am married and have one child. I am a semi-retired accountant (I now only do my husband's business accounts).
2. Have been married twice, my first husband's family name was Richardson, my medical notes relating to my operation, transfusion and infection, are in the name Carol Richardson. Unfortunately, he died at the age of 35 of a heart attack. I have since remarried and I am now Carol Bradley.
3. I wish to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of a transfusion during a major operation in 1982, which was only found 40 years later, in late 2022.
4. I confirm that I am not currently legally represented and that I am happy for the Inquiry Team to assist me with my statement.
5. I have had the option to seek anonymity and the Inquiry's statement of approach explained to me. I can confirm that I am not requesting anonymity.

6. The inquiries criticisms procedure and the 'right of reply' has been explained to me.

## **Section 2: How Infected**

7. I had suffered from Gynaecological problems since I was young. In 1981 (when I was 31 years old) I collapsed due to the pain, I went to see my GP at the Wordsley Health Centre in Wordsley, Stourbridge. The doctor didn't examine me and simply said that it must be kidney stones and asked me to provide a urine sample.
8. I was not happy with this, as knew it wasn't kidney stones, so my husband and I decided that I should go private for my treatment. I was referred to the Wordsley Hospital (this no longer exists and is administered by Dudley Health Authority) in January 1982.
9. I was seen by Mr McLean, Consultant Gynaecologist, he was superb. He examined fully and said "You have a problem lassie". I asked if it was cancer? And he said no. He arranged me to have an operation urgently on the NHS at the Wordsley Hospital, that he performed himself.
10. I had to sign a formal letter to allow him to do whatever was necessary, during the operation depending on what he found, I did sign this letter. I woke the day after the major operation to see a blood bag on my left side, with a drip going into my arm. There was also a drainage tube from my stomach going to receptacle on the floor.
11. Mr McLean, came to see me on his rounds and said that during the operation he had found various issue's that he had had to deal with. He had given me a total hysterectomy, including unusually my double uterus, both fallopian tubes and both ovaries and appendix, as there were lots of adhesions.

12. The operation details are explained in a letter that I was given recently from my GP. The letter is exhibited as **WITN7635002**.

Dated: 1 February 1982

To: Dr M Yaqub, The Health Centre, Wordsley Green, Wordsley.

From: R D McLean, Consultant Gynaecologist

Re: Mrs Carol Richardson

'I operated on her on 19 January. She had a left sided tubo-ovarian abscess but it was impossible to say whether or not the trouble began in the tube or in the appendix because the right appendage and the appendix were all bound up in one mass. In addition to this, she had a double uterus. Sub-total hysterectomy and bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy was performed, as was appendicectomy'.

13. I was in the Wordsley Hospital for 12 days. The day after the operation the stitches burst because there was an infection. They took a sample for culture and I was given antibiotics before being discharged.

14. At this time in 1982, I had a 5-year-old child. It is very difficult to list all the issues that affected him around this period. I was in hospital for a long time, then had to recover at home and look after him, putting strain on myself. Later we also had to explain that he wouldn't be having a little brother or sister, which he wanted.

15. In March 1982, I had developed IBS and then started to have anxiety, which I had never suffered before. Among other symptoms it manifested as panic attacks. I went to hospital on many occasions, I thought that I was very ill, I had pains all over my body, I often thought I was going to die of a heart attack.

16. If I was near my mother's house in Wolverhampton, I would go to New Cross Hospital, if I was near my home I would go to the Russells Hall Hospital. I would usually be given an ECG and told that everything was ok but the following week or so it would happen again.

17. My GP gave me Oxazepam (a tranquilizer) eventually I got up to taking 4 x 30mg tablets per day, which is a very high dose. I am now on 10mg tablets as and when I need them.

18. Over the years, I have also paid lots of money for all sorts of alternative treatments.
19. Alongside the anxiety, I also struggle with arthritis, I had bone density tests for osteoarthritis. Also stomach issues.
20. My GP at this time was the Moss Gove Surgery in Kingswindford in Dudley, they never did much to help me, just giving me advice. My current GP is the Northway Medical Centre in Sedgley, they have been better for example giving me diet plans to help with the IBS etc.
21. I have had all my Covid and flu jabs and have always had issues after each of them. When I related these problems to the GP (at Moss Grove) about the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 Covid jabs, they just said things like "it must be a coincidence". One of the symptoms I regularly had was that my shoulder really hurt, again the GP's said things like "it must be a coincidence".
22. On 29 September 2022, I had my 4<sup>th</sup> Covid and flu inoculations together at Moss Grove Surgery. 2 hours later I had a severe headache and pains in my stomach, I was unable to eat. I went to the GP, I saw a young doctor I hadn't seen before. They examined me and took blood samples, which were sent away that day.
23. A few days later the GP rang me and said they wanted to run the blood tests again because my liver enzymes were raised. After the second test the GP said they had tested for all the hepatitis infections and all were clear apart from HCV. I thought this couldn't be right; because I had never been a drug user.
24. I discussed possible causes with the GP because I had never taken intravenous drugs, I didn't drink heavily. We then discussed the operation and blood transfusion in 1982, the GP that must be the cause.
25. I asked the GP if I needed to be worried? The doctor was honest and said they didn't know but referred me to a liver specialist at the Corbett Hospital in Stourbridge. The referral took about 2 weeks but unfortunately due a post issue, I missed the appointment but the hospital followed up by contacting me

and another appointment was made.

26. I was seen by Dr Mahmood (the Consultant) and Louise Allen, they were superb. I was examined, had a CT scan and ultra sound. Apparently, I have only had one kidney since birth, this is showing some damage and I have been referred to the renal unit. My liver is functioning fine, the HCV is genotype 3.

27. On 30 January 2023, I started a course of Epclusa for the HCV, this is combination of 2 drugs sofosbuvir and velpatasvir. This is given to treat long-term HCV. The course of Epclusa is for 12 weeks. I had mild headaches when I started and I was very tired but cannot sleep well. My hands and feet are very cold. To counteract the sleep issue, I take an extra 10mg of tranquiliser and then usually get 5 hours sleep.

28. The doctors have said it is good that I am not overweight, I am active and have a good diet.

29. I have no other risk factors other than the transfusion, as to why I should have developed HCV. I have no tattoos, I had my ears pierced as a teenager but it was in a reputable establishment.

### **Section 3: Other Infections**

30. Having been tested for all strains of hepatitis, I have not contracted any other infections, than HCV.

### **Section 4: Consent**

31. I don't know that I have been tested without my knowledge or consent or used for research purposes.

32. I do believe I have been provided with adequate information about my infection and how to deal with it, since it was diagnosed.

### **Section 5: Impact**

33. I have listed the physical medical issues that I have endured, in addition I have been treated for depression with medication and counselling, I have had

to pay for additional courses because the NHS provided help was not sufficient. I have OCD which manifests as cleaning with me, it has to be perfect.

U

34. I have not suffered as far as stigma is concerned as I only recently found out the HCV diagnosis.

#### **Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support**

35. Apparently, my medical records show that I have had raised liver enzymes since 2008. My GP from 2003 to 2022 (before the Northway Medical Centre) was the Moss Gove Surgery in Kingswindford in Dudley. They did nothing about this and I was not aware till recently.

#### **Section 7: Financial Support**

36. I have recently applied to the English Infected Blood Support Scheme but have not heard anything back from them yet.

#### **Section 8: Other Issues**

37. I want to know why we have been made to suffer like this. I don't blame the NHS but the Government of the day. Why were we not contacted when it was in my records that I had had a blood transfusion in 1982?

#### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Lesley Bradley \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. \_\_\_\_\_