

Witness Name: Samjid Mannan

Statement No.: WITN7004001

Exhibits: **WITN7004002**

Dated: 5 September 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SAMJID MANNAN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 25 April 2022.

I, Samjid Mannan, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Samjid Mannan. My date of birth is GRO-C 1967 and my address is GRO-C London GRO-C.
2. I am a physics professor and lecturer at King's College London. I live with my wife and four children.
3. I intend to speak about my father, Shaikh Abdul Mannan, his infection with hepatitis C ("HCV") and his subsequent development of liver and stomach cancer leading to his death in 2004. I will also touch upon how the illness affected him, the treatment that he received and the impact that his illness had particularly on my mother but also the family as a whole.

4. My mother, Sajeda Mannan [GRO-C]. Although she is unable to provide a witness statement directly, I am doing so on her behalf. I have spoken with her about my father's illness in order to provide this statement. However, for much of the period that this statement covers I was in the dark as to what was going on. I make this statement in order to contribute at least what I know of my father's illness, to this Inquiry.
5. The Inquiry investigator has explained the anonymity process. I do not wish to be anonymous.

Section 2. How Affected

6. My father, Shaikh Abdul Mannan, was born in Bangladesh on [GRO-C] 1937. He came to the UK in 1966 to study. Soon afterwards, the Bangladesh civil war erupted. My father was actively involved in raising funds and awareness in the UK for this cause. The UK became my father and family's permanent home.
7. My mother and father were married in Bangladesh but they settled in the UK. They had three children together, including myself and my twin sister, and our younger brother. My father worked in the civil service and was a very active and prominent member of the Bangladeshi community.
8. Prior to his HCV infection, my father regularly suffered with back pain as a result of a slipped disc. He also had prostate problems, for which he underwent three procedures, though I am not sure what these procedures were specifically. The third of these operations was at St Thomas' Hospital in 1981.
9. After this operation my father was placed on a ward. He started bleeding whilst he was unconscious. This was noticed by one of the patients in the ward, who alerted the nurses.

10. As this was during the night, the doctor in charge was not present. I understand however, that my father underwent an emergency blood transfusion owing to the extent of the blood he had lost. My mother is certain that my father did not receive blood on any other occasion.
11. Aside from the health problems mentioned, my father was generally in good health. He was fit, otherwise healthy and he was an active father. I have fond memories of him playing in the park with me and my siblings. He was always fastidious and punctual in his work.
12. I went to boarding school in 1981 and subsequently went to university. I later learnt that during this period my father became increasingly unwell. I was somewhat isolated from this and my parents were at pains to shield me from the distraction that something was wrong, in order for me to focus on my studies.
13. I later found out that within a few months of my father's prostate operation in 1981, he developed severe jaundice. He became fatigued and weak, and my mother recalls that his urine was very yellow.
14. It took some time for my father to be properly diagnosed. Although his symptoms were indicative of him being infected with hepatitis, the doctors were confused because he had tested negative for hepatitis A and hepatitis B.
15. My father's GP was Dr Hussein or with a slightly different spelling, Hussain, I am unsure of the precise spelling but he was at a practice in Balham. Some years later, this person was found to have operated fraudulently under the NHS. He had lied about his credentials and was found guilty of malpractice. My mother informs me that he was deported after these revelations came to light.
16. Dr Hussein advised my father to eat a high protein diet, such as eggs, fish and meat. After his HCV diagnosis, my father and family learned that this about the worst advice he could have had for his liver. A high protein diet is 'complex' and places a high demand on the body's organs to

break the proteins down. This places extra strain on a person's liver, exacerbating the effects of his hepatitis infection.

17. After Dr Hussein was exposed as a fraud, my mother was at her wits end with the care my father was receiving. She went to her doctor's surgery in Wimbledon and burst into tears, nearly on the verge of a breakdown.
18. The head of the surgery took my Mum in and said that from now on he would personally treat my father. After this, my father received excellent care from the practice in Wimbledon, until his death.
19. Eventually my father was diagnosed with non-A non-B hepatitis, later known as HCV. I am unable to say when or how he was diagnosed, nor can I remember when exactly I became aware of this. My father was ill for such a long period and I find it difficult to recall when specific events occurred.
20. My father's health deteriorated rapidly throughout the 1990s. By 1997, aged 60, my father was forced into early retirement. By this stage he was under the care of a specialist at St Thomas' Hospital. I remember the specialist telling my father that he could spend the rest of his life going to work and end up dying on the tube, or he could spend it with his family, but it was one or the other. This led my father to take early retirement.
21. My father's symptoms ranged from jaundice, fatigue, muscle weakness and brain fog. He was constantly ill and had become a shadow of his former self.
22. My father received interferon treatment for his HCV under the care of St Thomas' Hospital. This consisted of injections at the hospital three times a week, for a period of around a year, according to my mother. I cannot remember when my father received this treatment, although it was prior to his diagnosis with liver cancer. I seem to recall that my father's treatment stabilised his HCV infection but did not clear it. My father never actually cleared HCV before he died.

23. The side-effects of this treatment were awful. My father said that he felt like he was on fire. He also suffered with debilitating and extreme fatigue. He was evidently very ill throughout this course of treatment.

24. I am unable to say when exactly my father was diagnosed with liver cancer, although it was some years after his course of interferon treatment. He was initially diagnosed with primary liver cancer, which spread to his stomach.

25. My father's health continued to decline and he sadly died on 12th September 2004. I have enclosed my father's death certificate as exhibit **WITN7004002**, which shows that my father's cause of death was 'l(a) Metastatic Gastric Carcinoma'. Though it does not state this, it was secondary to his liver cancer.

Section 3. Other Infections

26. I do not believe my father received any other infections as a result of receiving an infected blood transfusion.

Section 4. Consent

27. My father was unconscious when administered with a blood transfusion. He wouldn't have known of the risks associated with blood so I consider the matter of consent difficult to answer. I think that he would have consented to receiving a blood transfusion even if he knew of the risks because there was no other option.

28. To the best of my knowledge, my father consented to all other treatment and testing that he received.

Section 5. Impact

29. My father's illness was a permanent fixture in all of our family's lives. His health declined drastically and this affected all of us, especially my mother. She had to deal with this decline the most, along with my sister who was also living at home during my father's illness. It was constantly in the background of my life.

30. My father was active in many walks of life. This, was all curtailed by his illness. In particular, he was a respected member of the community who was often sought out to offer advice and support. He regularly helped people and he was recognised as a figurehead and respected elder within the community.

31. Even during his illness, many people would come to my father for help and advice, but he was soon forced to turn this down as his health worsened. This no doubt affected the wider community as well as my father. I think my father suffered as he had lost a huge segment of his life, particularly socially.

32. My father was treated for depression, which materialised after his HCV infection. The debilitating effects of HCV caused him to suffer with mental illness as well as physical. I am not cognisant of the details of his treatment although I know he saw his GP regarding this.

33. My father visited Bangladesh at least once during the mid-1990s, in spite of his ill health. In some ways this did him some good and he seemed better after visiting. We were naturally worried about him travelling beforehand. I believe on reflection, that he would have visited much more had he not suffered with HCV and cancer.

34. GRO-C. She found it all very difficult to accept. It had a persistent and devastating impact on her GRO-C.

35. After my father's diagnosis I was constantly worried he wouldn't be with us for much longer. I decided to accept a job in London to be close to him. I was happy working at Loughborough University in Leicestershire but it became a priority for me to live and work in London so I could support my father and my family.

36. My father was open about his illness. He had an extensive network of people and they were all aware of his HCV infection. He did not experience any stigma to my knowledge and he didn't try to hide his illness from others.

37. My father met just three of his eight grandchildren. Even for those three it was for a very limited time. He missed out on seeing them grow up. He would have been a wonderful grandfather to them. His grandchildren have lost out as a result.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

38. I am not aware of my father experiencing any difficulties in obtaining treatment, care or support in consequence of his infection with HCV. I also believe that he received dental care when required.

39. I am not aware of my father being offered counselling or psychological support in consequence of his HCV infection. I am aware that he was treated for depression but I have no further knowledge.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

40. I do not believe that my father or mother have received any form of financial assistance in respect of my father's HCV infection.

41. Culturally, our family do not like compensation. I recall that my father was made aware that there was a possibility of some form of compensation around 2001. However, by this stage he was diagnosed

with cancer and was too ill to pursue it. He knew that my mother would be fine financially. Compensation wasn't a priority for him.

42. I had never heard of The Skipton Fund until I was interviewed for this statement. I have been made aware of the English Infected Blood Support Scheme ("EIBSS") by the Inquiry investigator. I was not aware of the existence of EIBSS prior to this.

43. I have discussed the issue of compensation payments with my mother. I intend to assist her in making an application to EIBSS.

Section 8. Other Issues

44. What we as a family hope for from this Inquiry, is something that informs the medical profession and the big pharmaceutical companies in the hope that nothing like this ever happens again. I know they can't get things 100% right all the time, but I hope it leads to processes that means action is taken quicker and something positive comes out of this.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 05/09/2022