

Witness Name: Juliette Wint
Statement No.: WITN7396001
Exhibits: **none**
Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JULIETTE WINT

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 02 December 2022.

I, Juliette Wint, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Juliette Wint. My date of birth is GRO-C 1969 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about my late brother, Michael (Mykie) Wint and his infection with HIV. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.
2. I was born in Manchester and moved to Battersea, London when I was four years old. I have lived in the USA since mid-teens. My mother (Zenrene Lewis) had eight children, and my father (Clarence Wint) had three children - myself and two boys, one being Mykie. Myself and my brother Mykie were the last two children of my mums and first two of my father.

3. Mykie was born in 1971, his outlet was music, dancing and travelling. He was always the life of the party. Mykie was born with haemophilia and it was quite severe.
4. I can also confirm that I am not currently legally represented and I am happy for the Inquiry investigator to take my statement. The Inquiry Investigator has explained the anonymity process to me and I am not seeking anonymity.
5. I can also confirm that the Inquiry investigator has explained to me the 'Right to Reply' procedure, and that if I am critical of a medical professional or organisation, they will have the right to reply to that criticism.
6. I wish to acknowledge that naturally as time passes, memories can fade. This is due to my young age at the time and given I then moved to the USA. I have been able to provide approximate time frames to matters based on life events. However, these timeframes should be accepted as 'near to' rather than precise dates.

Section 2. How Affected

7. Mykie had severe haemophilia, which was diagnosed when I was in primary school. Due to his bleeding, my mother would take him to hospital for blood transfusions when needed.
8. He was always in pain with his haemophilia since birth. He would have regular transfusions at St George's Hospital. My role was to always rub my hands on his wounds and bumps to stop him from crying and sooth him especially in the night.
9. My brother attended a special school for haemophiliacs (although I cannot recall the name) as a child and would travel by bus from our house in Battersea towards Vauxhall, London due to the severity of his haemophilia.

10. We lived in Battersea and I attended Chesterton Primary School. I remember my brother would beg my mother to pull him out of the specialised school so he could attend Battersea County school. My mum for a while let him go but this ended shortly after he played football, he was injured and had to return to the haemophiliac school.
11. In around 1985, myself and my family relocated to the USA when my mum remarried. Her then husband filed documents to allow her children to stay as residents in the USA. After one and a half years, my family got the call by the US immigration control for us to complete our resident applications and medicals. However, within two years of living in the USA, my mum's marriage failed and my mum moved all her children back to the UK.
12. In 1987, after the US immigration department contacted my family to make their resident green card application, me and my brother went to go get a medical X-ray and blood tests to determine if we were eligible to stay in the US and to receive a green card. It was my plan to return but it also gave Mykie the option to live in both countries if he wanted to.
13. A doctor through the immigration department, looked through our results and I was told first that my results were fine and I was granted a green card. The doctor then addressed Mykie and told him that his application was denied. Mykie was 16 at this point and I was 18. We asked the doctor why Mykie's application was refused and he said because Mykie had HIV.
14. Myself and Mykie were shocked and asked how he had HIV. We knew it could not be sexually transmitted as he was not sexually active. Mykie was shocked and angry and asked why nobody had told him beforehand. Upon hearing the news, I felt like I was down a tunnel.
15. I then had to inform my mum as it was just myself and Mykie who had received the news. Mykie and I both thought it could be a mistake as Mykie was not sexual and I thought it could only be a homosexual act due to the social

perception at the time. I knew he could not have had HIV since birth as my mum would not have been so shocked.

16. My mum got in touch with his doctor's surgery and we returned to Mykie's GP. The doctor said that Mykie's UK GP had tried to make contact with him, but it was whilst my family were in the US and so the news about Mykie's HIV diagnosis never reached us as they did not have our new contact details. This meant that he was tested in the UK prior to leaving for the USA but was never informed of the results.

17. From my understanding, at this point, the family were not given advice on how to manage the HIV and no one was offered counselling. My mum and brother were not given adequate or full information after or even before the diagnosis.

18. In around 1992, when I returned from the US to visit the family, Mykie told me then that the NHS gave him the bad blood and that was how he had contracted HIV. Before this, I do not recall us being told that it had come from infected blood.

Section 3. Other Infections

19. I am not aware of Mykie contracting other infections. Apart from his kidney failing and those detailed on his death certificate: Tuberculosis, Meningitis, AIDS and haemophilia.

Section 4. Consent

20. I do not know if Mykie knew he had been tested for HIV or anything else, or whether he or my mum had given consent to tests. However, he was shocked and upon being tested, he did not return for his results and so this indicates that he did not know he was being tested for HIV.

21. I do not believe any information regarding risks with untested blood or research were given to my brother or mother as again they would not have been both as surprised to Mykie contracting HIV through blood transfusions.

Section 5. Impact

22. Myself and Mykie did not know much about HIV when we were first informed of the news. In 1987, the social perception, at the time, was that HIV came from African monkeys and that it was also a gay man's disease. I believe that due to this, Mykie went through a stage of being angry and resentful towards the gay community. I believe Mykie needed counselling and therapy in order to understand what had happened to him and to help him deal a little better with the changes in his life.

23. Mykie's HIV then sadly developed into AIDS. Mykie used to have dreads and had to shave them off when the HIV turned into AIDS. This was a big aspect of Mykie's character and it was very difficult for everyone to see his physical deterioration. People would not be able to recognise him on the street when they passed him, as the medication had made him lose weight, and Mykie was light skinned but his skin tone became much darker.

24. I remember conversations about how painful and difficult it was for him to cope with the haemophilia and HIV. It was not fair that he got HIV on top of him struggling with haemophilia whilst attending St Georges Hospital.

25. All the children on my mum's side are two years apart. Michael was my pair in the family, we even shared the same friends so it was extremely difficult for me as well as all my family.

26. Despite Mykie's HIV, everyone was very supportive as he was such a special person. Michael was an energetic boy that everyone loved. He impacted so many people in a positive way. He was so loved by his friends and family. He never forgot anyone and would call me every birthday no matter where he was travelling in the world.

27. At some point, I can recall Mykie rubbing his hands with alcohol to administer a needle into his stomach. I believe he may have been on dialysis at the time but I am unsure of the health issue.
28. Towards the end of Mykie's life, he called me from George's Hospital that he had attended due to having an infection. It was later revealed by a sibling, he fell in their bathroom and a clot quickly formed in his head. I immediately flew to the UK. When I entered his hospital room, I can recall him raising his hand up and down and he then slipped into a coma.
29. The Doctor told my family that it was our choice to decide whether to treat Mykie's infection or the head blood clot. We chose as a family to treat the infection to hopefully make him stronger. I stayed at the hospital the whole time. The clinicians checked the blood clot and we were then informed that Mykie was not coming back out of the coma.
30. Michael tragically passed on the 8 November 2000, and this was the first time that my mother showed emotion as he was her last baby. My mum later passed away in 2019 from cancer and is now buried next to Mykie.
31. When he passed, he had piles of flowers at his funeral. There were so many people at his funeral to show their love and support that police had to direct the traffic. The church was so full that people were even waiting outside.
32. I used to visit England to see Mykie every year in the summer. I no longer do this as it is easier not to relive the pain, and I stay here in the US and imagine that Mykie is travelling somewhere.
33. Before he passed, my brother was in search of our biological father but he did not tell me, until it was too late. After tracing the family tree in Jamaica through a colleague, I found our father within two weeks. It is so sad that Mykie never met his father whilst he was an adult or his younger half-brother on my father's side. If Mykie had not passed away from HIV, then he would have met them.

34. The first time I met my dad he did not know that Mykie had died, nor that he had haemophilia and HIV. I had to tell him there and then that his son had passed away ten years ago - neither the hospital nor my mother had informed him. My dad never got to see his son grow up. Although when I informed my dad of Mykie's passing, I spared him the painful details of the pain that his son, Mykie, suffered.

35. My brother suffered so much, mentally and physically, and I feel that so much was stolen from us in terms of time and happiness.

36. I have been through counselling myself and I have let go of my anger. Money will never replace my brother. I wish I could talk to him for a few more minutes.

37. My brother was almost like my twin and I wish my children could have seen and known him. I speak about him all the time to keep his memory alive as he was such a special and giving person.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

38. Neither myself, my family or Mykie were offered support or counselling. GRO-C

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However, as mentioned in section five of my statement, had it been offered, it would have assisted Mykie.

39. I do not believe that my brother received any treatment for the HIV.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

40. In around 1992, Mykie was given his own flat as compensation for the HIV infection.

41. He received around £48,000 and a car. He used this money to travel the world. He would send me postcards from his travels until he became too sick to travel. My last postcard from him was from Paris, France and I will keep that forever.

Section 8. Other Issues

42. I question why no one tested the blood in either the USA or UK. It is not right and I believe it was covered up. That is what makes it worse as the people responsible did not want the truth to come out, which is not fair. I want people to know that this injustice happened.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 7 February 2023