

Witness Name: Robert Monaghan

Statement No.: **WITN2218001**

Exhibits: **None**

Dated: 17th July 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ROBERT MONAGHAN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th November 2018.

I, Robert Monaghan, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Robert Monaghan. My address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about being infected with hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the and the impact it has had on both of us and our lives together.

Section 2. How Infected

2. Many years ago (I cannot recall when) I was involved in three incidents that resulted in me requiring a blood transfusion. The first was in the early 1980s when I suffered a significant injury to three of my fingers during my role as a carpet fitter. I had to attend a Glasgow hospital and I received a blood transfusion. The second incident was several years

later when I required to have a blood transfusion during an operation on my wrist at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The last incident occurred when I was stabbed multiple times and I was admitted to Southern General, Glasgow. I received a blood transfusion due to a large amount of blood loss. The last incident has possible taken place after 1991, but I would need to review my medical records in order to confirm.

3. My health over the years has not been good and while I have recovered, in 2000 I attended Gartnavel with my wife June for a matter that is unrelated to this Inquiry. During this appointment, my wife June, was offered blood tests for HIV which she accepted. I also accepted testing for this. The hospital tested both of us for HIV and it turns out hepatitis C as well. June's results came back negative, however my results came back as being negative for HIV and positive for hepatitis c.
4. To say I was shocked is an understatement. I had not idea how this had occurred and was stunned. The doctor who I cannot recall the name of, gaveme a little bit of information however there was very little.
5. I was given basic advice that it was a blood-borne illness and that there was a treatment option. However I was aware through conversations with other people that treatment for curing hepatitis C was dangerous and could kill a patient, or give them further significant illnesses so I declined. Otherwise I have not received any further information about the illness.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I have no received any other infections from the transfusion other than hepatitis C that I am aware of.

Section 4. Consent

7. I am unclear about why it is June was tested for HIV and how the testing for hepatitis C came about so yes I do not believe I have been given full information.
8. Yes I believe it is quite possible that I have been tested on for research but it is not something I can evidence. The conduct of the NHS leaves me with the opinion that it cannot be ruled out.

Section 5. Impact

9. Over the years I have always felt really tired and would find that I was sleeping a lot. I have memory problems and have issues with my hands. I feel unwell all the time.
10. I have now developed cirrhosis of the liver. I attend hospital occasionally but I do not know what the exact status of my liver is other than it is getting extremely poor. I have been offered treatment however I stand by my decision that I do not want this because of the risks that it poses. June helps me and looks after me when I need, she also has to look after our GRO-C as well and bears a significant burden as a result.
11. June and I have been extremely distressed from everything and we have been left feeling like we do not have the right information.
My quality of life is not the same anymore, I don't have a quality of life to say the least. Since the transfusions, and the events around them, I feel like I have been through too much. I don't know if I am coming or going most of the time, my family who have been worried about it, they don't know what to do. Sometimes I feel like a leper and it causes me to keep the illness quiet. I worry about my family and what will happen if I am not able to be there with them anymore.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

12. I have never been offered psychological support at any point, however it is not something I would wish to have. All my support has been through my wife June.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

13. I applied to SIBSS but this application was rejected as there were references to drug abuse in my medical records. This is extremely upsetting as it was the transfusions that resulted in me contracting hepatitis C.

14. I am entitled to compensation and the Government should properly look after my family. I have never received anything and this is a lot to bear.

Section 8. Other Issues

15. I have no other issues to raise for the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 19-7-21