

Witness Name: June Monaghan

Statement No.: **WITN2309001**

Exhibits: **None**

Dated: 17th July 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JUNE MONAGHAN

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

I, June Monaghan, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is June Monaghan. My address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about my husband Robert Monaghan and his infection of hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him and me, the treatment he received and the impact it had on both of us and our lives together.

Section 2. How Affected

2. Robert was involved in an incident in the 1980s when he injured his fingers when he was fitting some carpet which resulted in him having to attend hospital and receive a blood transfusion. He also was admitted to hospital years later for an operation to his wrist which resulted in a

transfusion. This was before I met him (I met Robert in the early 2000s) so I am unsure on the events around this. What I do know is that it left him needing a transfusion and this has caused him to contract hepatitis C.

3. Years later Robert and I were tested for HIV and hepatitis C at Gartnavel Hospital. My results came back negative but Robert's results came back positive. We were stunned and devastated by these turn of events and it left us reeling.
4. We were given no information about hepatitis C, but we were left feeling as though it was a junkie's disease. Robert does not abuse drugs but this is what he has been accused of.

Section 3. Other Infections

5. Robert has not contracted any other infections other than hepatitis C but he has now developed cirrhosis from this.

Section 4. Consent

6. Robert and I have been treated and tested properly over the years for this, however the information has always been cagey and I do not believe the doctors have shared all the information they could have with us.
7. I don't know if Robert has been used for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

8. Robert's health has suffered over the years. He has always been very tired and unable to work for many years without a clear explanation as to why before he was diagnosed with hepatitis C. Being told that he had hepatitis C had a big mental and physical impact on him and on

me. I feel very angry and scared that this has happened to him, that I have been tested and that I could have potentially been placed at risk.

9. Robert has developed cirrhosis of the liver now. He is monitored at Glasgow Royal Infirmary however other than routine blood tests there is nothing else going on managing his health. The thing I know is that **GRO-C** and it leaves me with a lot of fears for the future. He has been offered treatment but he has declined this due to the risks it comes with.

10. I am a carer for our son **GRO-C**. The burden of looking after both of them and the fears it has left for the future has been over whelming at points.

11. I keep Robert's infection quiet as the stigma around the condition is significant. People are extremely unkind with information they don't know. Robert has experienced some nasty comments and we keep to ourselves to avoid trouble.

12. Robert has not worked for many years because of his poor health and I am a full time carer for our son. As a result there are significant financial burdens placed on us, which has stemmed from Robert's infection.

13. We do not have life insurance and it is not something I think Robert has obtained himself.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

14. I receive support in relation to **GRO-C** but not in relation to the care and support that Robert needs with his declining health. I don't know if counselling would be something I would want though.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

15. Robert has been denied support from Skipton and SIBSS on the basis that the doctors say he must have abused drugs in his past. This is false he has now and is extremely upsetting. Our family have received no support and it has resulted in us being isolated.

Section 8. Other Issues

16. 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

14/7/21