

Witness Name: Mark Oldfield

Statement No: WITN2973001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: March 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARK OLDFIELD

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I, Mark Oldfield will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Mark Oldfield. I was born on GRO-C 1988 and I live at GRO-C  
GRO-C
2. I am currently living with my mother, Moira Oldfield, who has also produced a witness statement 'WITN1443001'. I am in full-time employment. I do not have Haemophilia.
3. I make this statement on behalf of my late father, Mark Richard Oldfield. He was born on GRO-C 1961 and died on GRO-C 1989 at the age of 28. My father died from cancer in the lymph nodes and I believe it was as a result of HIV.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

5. I believe my father had Haemophilia A. My father received Factor VIII treatment in order to treat his Haemophilia.
6. I was only about 18 months old when my father died. I therefore wish to rely on my mother's witness statement for this section.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

7. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

## **Section 4. Consent**

8. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

## **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

9. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to part of this section.
10. After his death, my mother, myself and my brother were not the same. When I was growing up, everyone would talk about their dad and the things that they did with their dad. It upset me as I grew up without even getting to know my dad.
11. My mother did not tell me about how my father died until I was in my late teens as she thought I would not understand and it would be really upsetting for me and this was only when my aunt accidentally let slip about my father having HIV. This was the first time that my mother told me the full story of what happened. I was confused and upset that such a disease could kill someone.
12. I started to do my own research in my late 20s and now that I started looking into it, about how it happened, how it all came about and so on, I feel so upset and angry that something so serious happened in the 21st century in a

country such as the United Kingdom. I fail to understand why the blood products were not checked and scanned before using it on a human.

13. My brother was only 7 or 8 months old when my father died in November 1989. It had a huge knock on effect on us not growing up with a father. I'm trying to help my mum out as much as possible now. I do not think my mother has ever been fully happy from what she told me and my relatives said that she loved my father very dearly. I do not think she ever made a full recovery.

14. I have suffered mentally as a result. I never got the chance to do things with my father and speak to him. Seeing my cousins and friends hanging around with their fathers, which I never got a chance to do upsets me and makes me feel really down.

15. I believe there is still a stigma attached to anyone has been infected with HIV. As a result, I have only told very close relatives and close friends about my father's HIV. I only tell people if I feel comfortable with them and I trust them but it is not something I will go and tell everyone.

16. My brother and I do not talk about my father's death much. We find it difficult to open up to each other. We are quite reserved and we keep our feelings to ourselves.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

17. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

18. I was not offered any counselling or psychological support as a result of my father's infection or death. I do feel sometimes like I want to talk to someone about what happened but sometimes I just don't want to talk about it and just carry on with my life.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

19. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

20. When turned 18, I received a payment of about £20,000. Unfortunately, I cannot remember from which Trust or Fund I received this payment from.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

21. I want to know why this scandal happened, who was behind it and who's idea it was not to screen the blood when it would have been common knowledge that blood can carry infections and therefore should have been scanned.

22. I want someone to be held accountable as it is not just my father that was infected but a lot of other people's fathers, mothers, siblings etc.

23. I want people to know what really happened all those years ago.

#### **Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

24. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

25. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

#### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

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Dated

22/3/19