

Witness Name: Mr Andrew Paddock

Statement No.: WITN3145001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANDREW PADDOCK

I, Andrew Paddock will say as follows:

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Andrew Paddock. My date of birth is GRO-C 1964 and my address is GRO-C

Section 2: How infected

Haemophilia

2. I have mild Haemophilia A which was diagnosed a few months prior to my fifth birthday. My brother is also a haemophiliac and from what I know, we were doing what other normal children do when they play and occasionally knocked our legs and arms but we were having unusual bruising. My parents spoke to the GP about it who eventually referred us to the hospital.
3. I was treated at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth by Dr O'Brien. As I have mild Haemophilia A, treatment with blood products was only given to me when I needed it so you could say it was 'on demand'. I assume that I would have

initially been treated with Cryoprecipitate but I do not know for certain. I do know that at some point I transitioned to being treated with Factor VIII, which I think was in around 1973/1974. I was registered with St Mary's Hospital until I was in my late 20s and then when I moved, I was transferred to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford where I am still treated.

4. I do not know if my parents were told about the risks of receiving blood products when I was attending St Mary's Hospital and I was never told about the risks when I got to an age when I would have been able to appreciate them and understand them myself.

Diagnosis with Hepatitis C

5. I had a blood test for Hepatitis C in around 1992. I recall that I was told that due to my age, it was almost certain that I would be Hepatitis C positive which makes me wonder what they already knew about the treatment which they were giving to me. I believe that I attended the hospital to obtain the results of the blood test and I was told that I was Hepatitis C positive. Due to the passage of time, I cannot recall the name of the clinician who attended to me.
6. I cannot remember being informed about the possible implications or consequences of being infected with Hepatitis C but I do know that I was simply told not to worry about the positive result.
7. I did speak to the clinician at the time about an incident which happened at St Mary's Hospital in 1974 after being treated with Factor VIII. I had a very bad reaction to it, to the extent that I immediately passed out. I remember sitting on the bed and my father catching me. The clinician said that this could have possibly been when I received a contaminated batch of Factor VIII.

Section 3: Other infections

8. I have never been informed that I have contracted any other infections. However, I did receive correspondence in 2009 informing me about the risk of

being exposed to vCJD due to the blood products which I was treated with. I received a letter which said that the vCJD prion had been detected during the post mortem of a haemophiliac and I subsequently received an update which provided general advice and guidance. vCJD has not been mentioned in the press for a long time so I try not to worry about it but it is still in the back of my mind.

Section 4: Consent

9. Prior to the blood test for Hepatitis C which I had in 1992 which I knew about, I was under the impression that my previous blood tests were routine.
10. I must have been tested for HIV and I would be very surprised if I was not, but I do not recall ever being tested for HIV.
11. I did consent to take part in a trial to treat my Hepatitis C which was undertaken by the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford in 2003. This was because I had Hepatitis C genotype 1A and until that point, there was no effective treatment for it. It had a reasonable success rate in relation to the treatment of my genotype.

Section 5: Impact

Physical/Mental impact of Hepatitis C and the treatment for it

12. I do not recall having any symptoms in relation to Hepatitis C itself. I had no idea prior to testing positive that I had it.
13. The treatment for Hepatitis C did have a big impact on me. As I have set out above, I commenced my treatment for my Hepatitis C infection at the John Radcliffe Hospital as part of the trial in March 2003. I received Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin. I carried on working for around six weeks into the treatment but after that, the side effects really started to kick in and I had to go on long term sick leave from work.

14. I had extreme fatigue and flu-like symptoms, nausea to the point that I could not eat and I started to lose weight. As the treatment progressed, I went through a phase of getting a lot of mouth ulcers so again, I struggled to eat.
15. I had a PCR test 12 weeks after the treatment started which indicated that the virus was undetectable but the trial was for the treatment to be administered over a period of 12 months. Initially, I would attend the hospital once a month to be reviewed but after around four to five months, I had to visit the hospital every week to have a blood test. This was because my neutrophils had started to drop quite a lot and it needed to be monitored. The dose of my treatment had to be reduced to counteract this. I finished my treatment on 26 February 2004.
16. The treatment also had an impact on my mental health. I recall that it affected the way I was thinking, I was very despondent and worried and doing things which were out of character for me. I had moved from GRO-C to live with my parents and I was trying to do activities which would allow me to release my frustration, such as digging the garden.

Medical complications/conditions caused by the treatment

17. Around a year after I had completed the treatment, I started to get secondary effects from what I believe were caused by it. I suffered with shortness of breath and I was investigated for asthma. I had significant bowel issues which were also investigated but I was told it was IBS. I had blood in my urine and I had to undergo invasive tests for that and ultimately, I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2015. There is no history of diabetes in my family and whilst I cannot prove that these conditions were all down to the treatment, I believe they are connected with it.

How infected status has impacted on medical treatment and/or dental care

18. Fortunately, I do not feel that being diagnosed with Hepatitis C has impacted upon my medical or dental treatment. Due to my haemophilia, I used to attend

the Churchill Hospital for dental treatment in any event when they had their own dentistry unit but it closed. Now if I need Factor VIII for a procedure, I go to the dental hospital in Oxford. Other than that, I am registered with a local NHS dentist.

Family and social life

19. When I was being treated for Hepatitis C, I could not really do a lot as I felt too ill. If there was a day when I was feeling okay, I would go out and get some fresh air and exercise.
20. My mother was very supportive during my treatment but my dad did not want to accept what was happening and kept his distance to an extent. He clearly cared but he was part of a generation that did not show their feelings.
21. I have never married or had children and this may have been a subconscious decision. I know of other haemophiliacs who were advised by their clinicians not to have a family – this would have been in the 1980s and 1990s when HIV and Hepatitis C were infecting haemophiliacs. This is bound to have had an effect on me.

Stigma

22. Haemophilia was not something that I talked about when I was young or when I was an adult. It also seemed to be a secret that was contained within the haemophilia community, especially with the arrival of HIV and Hepatitis C when it was automatically assumed that because you were a haemophiliac, you would be infected in some way.

Work, financial impact

23. I had to go on long term sick in around April 2003 and I was away from work for around a year which was the term of my treatment. My employers were very supportive about it and when I did return to work, it was a phased return to

enable me to build my stamina back up. During the period when I could not work, I was quite fortunate as I did receive full pay for the first six months and half pay for the remaining six months. I was also a member of the management union and there was a scheme available which supplemented my income so from a financial perspective, I was in a good position.

Section 6: Treatment, care, support

24. I have never been offered or received counselling or any other support in relation to my Hepatitis C diagnosis.

Section 7: Financial assistance

25. I applied for and received the Stage 1 payment from The Skipton Fund. The hospital helped me to complete the application form and it was a straightforward process. I did, however, feel that by accepting the payment the Government were attempting to relinquish responsibility for what had happened and that it was a token to try and make the problem and the people disappear.

Section 8: Other

26. Due to my Hepatitis C diagnosis, I am now very wary about receiving blood products and I always try to avoid treatment with Factor VIII if possible. There are certain circumstances when I have no choice but to be treated with Factor VIII and I am fairly confident about the safety of it now but having seen what has emerged over the last few years, there is always going to be a doubt in my mind.

Section 9: Conclusion

27. I hope that the Inquiry can reveal the truth about what happened and what was known about contaminated blood products. I am not sure that it can be achieved entirely given the amount of documents that have been destroyed over the

years. I feel that those who were complicit in covering the truth about contaminated blood products to be prosecuted but I doubt this will ever happen.

28. I have not suffered financially as much as some individuals who have suffered a great deal but I would like everybody affected to be provided with compensation to enable them to have the dignity of not having to worry about money in the future.

29. I do not wish to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry but I would like my evidence to be public.

Statement of Truth

I believe the facts in this witness statement are true.

Signed:

GRO-C

Andrew Paddock

Dated:

3/6/2021