

Witness Name: Christopher Richard Edward Milne

Statement No: WITN3379001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: July 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHRISTOPHER RICHARD EDWARD MILNE

I, Christopher Richard Edward Milne, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Christopher Richard Edward Milne and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C I was born on GRO-C 1976 and I am married to Fiona, we have a son, James, who is 8 years old. I am Head of Finance for a café chain.
2. I make this statement in relation to my late father, Kenneth Edward Milne (my father), who died at the age of 45 on GRO-C 1993 as a result of being treated with contaminated blood products.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My father was born in GRO-C 1948 and had moderate to severe Haemophilia A. As a child he attended Lord Mayor Treloar College.
5. I recall my father was regularly hospitalised when I was a child. I believe for most of the 1980s he was treated at St. Thomas's Hospital in London under the care of Dr Mark Winter. Though he was also received treatment at Kent & Canterbury Hospital at some point.
6. My father was initially treated with cryoprecipitate then Factor VIII concentrate from the time it first became available.
7. My father was a civil servant and worked in the Patent Office. He also became the vice-chair of the Haemophilia Society (the Society) a position he held till he died. As a result of his active voluntary role within the Society, he kept up to date and knew a lot more about new treatment for Haemophilia than most people. He felt that Factor VIII was the '*bee's knees*' and the best way for Haemophiliacs to be able to live as normally as possible.
8. I am not aware if my father was provided with any information or advice beforehand about the risk of being exposed to infection from blood products. However due to his involvement with the Society he might have been aware of the risks associated with blood products early on. Indeed he was featured in the Panorama programme raising awareness about the risks of the blood products and he also wrote in the Society's magazine.
9. My father felt the value and significance of Factor VIII was important as it enabled him to lead a fairly normal life; so he felt that any potential risk of infection was worth taking. Though I question whether it was an acceptable risk and whether he was fully advised in this regard.

10. As a result of being treated with Factor VIII, my father was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV).

11. I believe my father was infected with HIV around 1985/86. I do not know when he was told of the diagnosis and my mother, Barbara Yvonne Milne, who married my father in the late 1960s, now finds it a blur and cannot recall when he was diagnosed. My mother did have a lot of paperwork regarding my father's condition but she disposed of it a long time ago.

12. I was told of my father's infection when I was 13 years old in 1989. My mother and father decided that they would not tell me until after I finished the exams I was sitting at that time.

13. I do not know if my father was given any information about HIV at the time of his diagnosis.

14. My father was tested positive for HCV shortly before he died in 1993. I do not know if he was aware of the infection and we did not know of it until long after he died.

Section 3. Other Infections

15. As far as I am aware, my father had no other infections.

Section 4. Consent

16. My father had a good relationship with Dr Mark Winter and would not have had any concerns that tests were being carried out on him. My father was in a privileged position as he knew more than most as to what was going on and

knew the questions to ask. My father attended conferences with the Society all over the world so he was well informed as to what was going on.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

17. Mentally, my father was a pretty resilient guy. His infection did of course have an impact on him although it was not immediately obvious. He became more short tempered and angry, and less predictable in his moods.
18. He felt that he was carrying this burden on behalf of the Society. He spent a lot of time dealing with the business of the Society which had a detrimental effect on his marriage. It was a bug bear to my mother; she wanted him to spend more time with the family rather than with the Society.
19. The physical effects of the infection on my father came at a later date; around 1990/1991. By this point, the infection had taken a widespread toll on his body, there was a general decline, he was very fragile and he was repeatedly in and out of hospital. He also had restricted mobility due to arthritis.
20. My father developed AIDS and his health deteriorated rapidly over the final 6 to 9 months of his life when he was largely in hospital or in bed at home unable to do anything.
21. Shortly after he died we were told that he also had non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.
22. My father died in hospital on the GRO-C 1993 at the age of 45, I was 17 years old.
23. The only treatment I recall my father receiving was AZT and this would have been fairly early on, soon after he was told of the diagnosis. I do not recall him facing any difficulties in obtaining any treatment.

24. I do not remember any specific effects of the treatment on my father. I am also not aware of any effect on any other treatment he may have received such as dental treatment as a result of having HIV.
25. My father continued working through his illness as much as he could, which was extremely draining for him. I remember him being exhausted. He would spend the whole week working; he was commuting to London and working 7am to 7pm and then undertaking his commitment to the Society when he returned home. So he spent the weekend recovering. I do not recall my father not working and I do not think he ever formally left the Patent Office. I believe my mother received a very generous death in service payment.
26. Stigma was never really a problem to us. We were very open in telling people about my father's infection; we did not want to hide away from it. We had no negative reaction from anyone as far as I am aware.
27. My grandmother, my father's mother, refused to believe he was unwell; she never accepted it. He was an only child. She could not deal with the trauma that her son was going to die; she could not process it and struggled with it badly. She had lost her husband in the 1950s and that affected her. She died about 10/12 years ago, and was suffering with dementia; she never came to terms with my father dying.
28. I recall we wanted to go to America on holiday after my father was diagnosed but we were refused entry visas due to my father's HIV infection. This is ironic given that we believe he was infected through American blood; so we went to Canada instead.
29. I was a teenager at the time so initially I think it was more the shock of the change rather than about the infection my father had. By the 1990s it really

started to have an effect on my father's day to day life. It was just another change in my life that was subsumed into all the other changes in my life at that time. Maybe my mind was a little still in shock as I think I should have been a lot more upset that I was when he died.

30. My mother felt incredibly guilty which was irrational. I went to university shortly after my father died and she suffered heavily with guilt and had a very difficult 6 to 9 months afterwards.

31. My education was impacted the most. I was studying five A Levels and I was predicted five A grades though I do not think I would have achieved that. However, due to my father's condition I dropped two subjects and studied for three A Levels instead. I missed out on my offer to Cambridge University as I achieved one A and two B's. However, I was accepted at Sheffield University, studying biological sciences and achieved a 2:2 degree.

32. When my father died, his death certificate stated the cause of his death as liver failure and Haemophilia. We were advised to remove Haemophilia as otherwise we would end up in the papers. We were surprised by this; it was the early 1990s but as we did not want negative publicity it was removed.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

33. My father did not receive any help or support after he was infected. I do not know if he was ever offered any support but I expect he would have rejected it anyway.

34. Also Dr. Mark Winter was a good friend of my father's, as well as being his doctor. They would talk weekly or bi-weekly and I remember him returning home feeling more positive. That was probably a form of counselling for my father.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

35. My father did receive a lump sum of £25,000 from the MacFarlane Trust but I do not remember when he received it. My mother does not recall that anything had to be signed to receive the payment.

36. I received about £3,000/£4,000 a year through my mother while I was in full time education. It got me through university without having to work. However I do not know if that was as a result of my father being in the civil service or from one of the trusts or funds that were set up.

37. I believe I learnt of the Skipton Fund from the media. I sorted out the application and dealt with all the paperwork. As a result of the application, as far as I am aware, my mother received a lump sum of about £25,000. I am not sure if she received the second payment.

Section 8. Other Issues

38. I have no other issues that I wish to raise with the Inquiry.

Section 9. Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

39. 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.

40. I do wish to be called to give oral evidence if I can assist the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....GRO-C.....

Christopher Richard Edward Milne

Dated: 7 November 2019