

Witness Name: Christopher Raymond Smith

Statement No: WITN1711001

Exhibits: WITN1711002 - 05

Dated: January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHRISTOPHER RAYMOND SMITH

I, Christopher Raymond Smith will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Christopher Raymond Smith. My date of birth is GRO-C1977 and I live at GRO-C with my wife and our four children. I work full time as a general manager at LG electronics.
2. I make this statement on behalf of my late father, Mr Raymond Christopher Smith, who was born on GRO-C1953. My father died on GRO-C1986 aged 32 from pneumonia.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's 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.
4. Further clarification is set out in my mother's (Mrs Wendy Clark, WITN1153001) witness statement.

Section 2. How infected

5. I believe my father was diagnosed with severe haemophilia A from birth.
6. I believe my father received Factor VIII (FVIII) from the mid 1970's. FVIII was sold to my father as a wonder drug. It changed his life as he was able to go on holiday and live a normal family life by administering FVIII himself.
7. Details of his treatments and batch numbers are exhibited at **WITN1711002**. However, Dr Seaman confirms in his letter dated 15 May 1989 (which is exhibited at **WITN1711003**) that the treatment records do not appear to be complete.
8. My father was under the care of Dr Chelmers until 1984 and then he was under the care of Dr Seaman at Addenbrooke's Hospital (AH) which was the main Haemophilia Centre in Cambridge. He had also attended Oxford and the London Hospital to see specialists about his teeth.
9. I believe my father was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C after 1983 because my brother was conceived in 1983. GRO-C
GRO-C
10. According to my father's blood tests records, my father tested positive for HIV on 23/01/1985. He also tested positive to Hepatitis Bc Ab-ELISA anti HBC. The blood test was taken on 31/12/1984. I do not believe my father was told that he was being tested for the above infections at that time.
11. I believe no information or advice was provided to my father beforehand about the risk of being exposed to infections. I believe my father would not have taken the products had he been aware of the risks involved.
12. There is a letter exhibited at **WITN1711004** dated 14/02/1985 from Dr Seaman to Dr Harvey which states that "I have not as yet told Mr Smith the results". There is a hand written note at the bottom of the letter which states 'Told 15/02/1985'. I do not believe my father was told in February as

suggested in the above letter and in the letter exhibited at **WITN1711003**. I therefore believe my father was told he had HIV in or about the late 1985 when he agreed to enter into a pilot study to assess the usefulness of passive immunity in AIDS patients. Dr Seaman confirms that my father was told in or about August 1985 that there was a possibility of AIDS as a diagnosis. There is a further discussion between Dr Seaman and B M Eley in a letter dated 23/09/1985 which is exhibited at **WITN1711005**, which states that "this level of candidiasis is uncommon without some degree of immunodeficiency and it is possible that it is indicative that he may be developing the full AIDS syndrome". However, I do not believe my father was told about AIDS at this time.

13. On **GRO-C** 1986 my father attended the hospital for a routine check-up and I believe he was told at this appointment that he had AIDS. My father died 5 days later on the **GRO-C** 1986.

14. I do not know exactly what was said to my father but I do not believe adequate information was provided about the infections.

15. I believe that information should have been provided earlier to my father as I believe the medical professionals knew he was at risk of infections but they failed to tell him.

16. I believe my father was not given any information about the risk of others being infected.

Section 3. Other Infections

17. I do not believe my father received any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

18. I believe my father was treated without his knowledge, consent, and without adequate information on multiple occasions. I believe my father should have

been told that he is was HIV positive as soon as the doctors received the positive tests back.

19. I also believe he was tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

20. As a result of the infections my father lost a lot of weight, in a short period of time; he lost approximately 2 stone in about 2 months. His teeth also started to fall out and he suffered from night sweats. His health declined very fast in a short period of time.

21. Towards the end of his life he was finding it difficult to move and he struggled to sleep.

22. I do not know if my father suffered from any further medical complications.

23. My father was a successful businessman, he had 2 companies. However, he was unable to work after the infections and this caused the decline of his electronic business.

24. As previously stated, on **GRO-C** 1986 my father attended the hospital for a routine check-up he said goodbye to me at the front door and left and that was the last time that I saw him alive. My brother was only 18 months old. On the **GRO-C** my brother and I were in my mother's bed when she received a telephone call. She suddenly left. I did not know what was going on. I believe this was when my mother was told that my father had AIDS.

25. The family turned up to the house and at this point I knew something was seriously wrong. I was told that they had to put my father into an isolation unit and I was not allowed to say goodbye to him because at this point he had full blown AIDS. However, they were fully aware that he had AIDS prior to this date and failed to tell my father or us and let us live with him for 6 months.

This angered me as I believe they risked my health for 6 months and they would not allow me to say goodbye.

26. I do not know what treatment my father received, other than the trial that he took part in. I believe they treated him like a guinea pig.

27. I believe that my father faced difficulties in accessing treatment especially in relation to his elbows. I note from his medical records that he suffered a lot of pain in relation to his elbows but the doctors were just treating it like a nuisance.

28. I was very close to my father; I spent lot of time with him. When he died it changed me, my teenage years are a blur. I experimented with drugs, and went to places I would never want my children to go. I was an 8 year old child whose father had died and left in a cloud of stigma, with a chip on my shoulder.

29. I was already damaged from my father's death and then other family members died. I did not care if I lived or died. I needed to block everything out; I was living in a world of pain. I was broken. I wanted to kill myself but I was not brave enough as I could not leave my mum. I got to a point in my life when I thought 'what my dad would think' and that changed my life. I went and got a career, met my wife and changed who I was.

30. When I watch television and I see father and son moments it touches me. When I walk out of my front door I see that moment when my father walked out of the door for the last time and it upsets me.

31. The stigma when my father passed away was huge so I had to keep my family life private. The stigma had prevented me from telling people why my father died in the past and that hurt more than anything. Someone killed my father and I could not tell anyone.

32. I finally told my story to the local newspaper and the response that I received was huge. People said that they had no idea. It was hard to get my family prepared for the fact that I was going to go to the newspaper. It was hard for my mother because we lived in a small town.

33. My family were up to their eyes in debt so we had to sell everything to get by. My father had a box of cars which we had to auction to make money. When my father was alive he drove a Porsche which cost a small fortune, but when I went to secondary school no one knew I had lost everything because my father had died. I became the rich kid who was bullied for being on the bus.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

34. I do not believe that my father was offered any care and support when he was diagnosed with HIV. I do not recall being offered any care and support.

35. When I was in my mid 20's the Haemophilia Society realised no one had spoken to me so my mother sat me down and I talked to this women. In my opinion this conversation happened 15 years too late. I think if counselling was offered at the time it would have helped.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

36. In the early 1990's, I got a trust fund from Master Turner for £4,000 or £5,000, which must have been from the Macfarlane Trust. I did not want to take the money because I thought it was an insult.

37. My mother and I successfully applied for Skipton Stage 1 payment from Skipton Fund in sum of £20,000. We did not meet the criteria for Stage 2.

38. I received nothing else from the Trusts.

39. I did not apply for anything else from the Trusts because I did not know it was even available.

Section 8. Other Issues

40. My father was a severe Haemophiliac; therefore, he should have had bundles of medical records. I had to become an activist to get a small amount of medical notes with sections missing. I phoned the hospital every Monday morning at the same time for 4 or 5 weeks to obtain the medical records.

41. The truth of the biggest disaster in NHS history needs to be established. There needs to be accountability.

42. Pursuant to paragraph 2.9 of the Notice of Determination in the Award made to my Solicitors preparation of this statement does not cover investigative work. I would like to give evidence on the investigation matters and I am unable to do so in this statement.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

43. 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.

44. I would like to give oral evidence at the Inquiry in relation to my personal circumstances and family history and in relation to my investigatory work.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed... GRO-C

Dated *18/1/2019.*

Medical Summary

(This summary is not intended to exhaustive but sets out key points in the records relevant to the statement)

Virology Results

28/10/1976	Australia Antigen Negative
11/08/1980	Hep B – Antigen - Negative Antibody – Negative
07/05/1981	Hep B – Antigen - Negative Antibody – Negative
16/10/1984	Hep B – Antigen - Negative Anti - HBc – Positive
10/01/1985	Hep B – Antigen - Negative Hep Bc – Ab Elisa Anti HBc – Positive Hep Bs - Ab – RIA anti-HBs – results equivocal HTLV-111 Results to follow
23/01/1985	Hep B – Antigen - Negative Hep Bc – Ab Elisa Anti HBc – Positive Hep Bs - Ab – RIA anti-HBs – results equivocal HTLV-111 - Positive