

Witness Name: JOSEPH GERAINT JONES

Statement No: WITN1321001

Exhibits: WITN1321002-3

Dated: JULY 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JOSEPH GERAINT JONES

I, JOSEPH GERAINT JONES will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Joseph Geraint Jones. I was born on GRO-C 1962 and I live at GRO-C Wales.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my medical records.

Section 2. How infected

3. I have Haemophilia A with a clotting factor of 11%. I was diagnosed after a skateboard accident when I was 15 years old. I was lucky because I had few injuries before then.
4. I am treated at the Swansea Haemophilia Centre at the Morriston and Singleton Hospitals under the care of Dr Al-Ismail and Dr A Beddall.

5. After my haemophilia diagnosis in 1977/78 and throughout the 1980s I had a lot of Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate treatment. I remember sitting waiting in Ward 16 for hours and hours waiting for treatment. The waiting is indelible in my mind. As and when I sustained a bleed I used to wait and see if the bleeding would stop on its own before going to hospital for treatment because I hated having to wait around for such a long time.
6. I was not warned of any risk of infection before treatment. I am infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated FVIII blood products.
7. My grandfather, Arthur Jones (born on GRO-C 1921) was also infected with HCV from contaminated blood products. He died from liver failure on 28th December 1998, aged 77.
8. I was told that I had HCV in or around 2006 when I went to hospital for treatment arising from a head injury. I was taken into a room by Dr Al-Ismail and he told me I had it. He said it was serious but I cannot now remember what else either of us said.
9. Notwithstanding the death of my grandfather, I knew very little about HCV and I was not provided with enough information to help me understand and/or manage the infection when I was told but the advice did come later.
10. I refer to **Exhibit WITN1321002** being a letter sent by Dr Ismail to my GP on 17th October 2006 (after I was told). I also refer to **Exhibit WITN1321003** being a letter from Dr Lewis (Consultant Haematologist) to my GP sent on 18th June 2002. It is clear from the content of that letter that the Haemophilia Centre knew that I had HCV from 2002 (possibly before). I was not told until 2006 and had no anti-viral therapy as recommended in that letter.
11. Moreover, my cousin had seen a 'hepatitis' warning on the front of my file at one of my hospital appointments. The warning label was there for all to see and I did not know.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I do not believe that I have received any other infections. I am not at risk of vCJD as far as I am aware.

Section 4. Consent

13. I was tested for HCV without my consent because when I found out I had HCV I was not aware that the test had been carried out.

14. I do not know if I was tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

15. I have a social phobia and the psychological impact of being infected with HCV has exacerbated the phobia and I now suffer with anxiety and depression. It has knocked me for six. I did very well at school and am well read but I have been deprived of the opportunities available to others like pursuing a career and/or marrying and having children. I now very rarely go out and no longer see friends and socialise. I live at home with my parents and they worry about what will happen to me after they are gone. My family are a great help to me and get me through.

16. I am in poor physical health. My liver is scarred. I have high blood pressure and diabetes. I have had a huge hematoma on my knee. I stick to a diet as well as I can but I have trouble urinating and I have accidents from the back package every now and again. I am on medication for various things (8 tablets a day). I try not to think too much about what I am taking. It helps me not to think about it.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

17. I have not been offered any HCV clearing treatment. I have not been offered any counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

18. I did receive a payment about a year ago of around £75,000 but I am uncertain as to where it came from. I believe it must have been from the Skipton Fund.

19. I am in receipt of approximately £1,500 per month through WIBSS.

Section 8. Other Issues

20. There are no other issues.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

21. I am not seeking anonymity and I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. 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

Date.....

9.7.2019.