

Witness Name: Dean King
Statement No: WITN1329001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: 6th February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN WITNESS STATEMENT OF DEAN KING

I, Dean King will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Dean King. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1979 and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C Essex GRO-C with my wife, our daughter (13)
and our son (11). I am employed and I currently work for a financial services
company. I have been working for the company since the end of July 2018;
however, I have been in the financial services market for about 15 years.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my
full medical records.

Section 2. How infected

3. As my grandfather has Haemophilia I was tested at birth and diagnosed with
severe Haemophilia B. My mother is a carrier of Haemophilia so there was a
good chance I would have Haemophilia.

4. From 1979 I was treated with a number of different blood products including BPL until around 1994 when blood products changed.
5. I have been treated at the Addenbrooke's Hospital Haemophilia and Thrombophilia Centre since birth. I was initially treated by Dr Chalmers, then Dr Seaman, Dr Trevor Baglin, Dr David Perry and Dr Will Thomas, who is my current doctor.
6. I am certain that my parents were not informed of any risk to me as the result of being treated with blood products and my parents never thought to question the doctors. They were in a difficult position: if I was not treated with blood products, I would be left in agony and I would need to potentially spend weeks in the hospital. It was reassuring for them that I could be treated with an injection. When I was around 7 years old I was able to administer the blood product by myself, rather than being treated in hospital.
7. I was infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of being treated with blood products.
8. I do not recall how exactly or when I found I had been infected with HCV. However, I believe it was the early 1990's when I was around 11 or 12 years old and attending the last year of primary school or the start of secondary school.
9. I believe I was informed of my condition in a meeting with Dr Alexander, who is a liver specialist and a very good doctor. I remember that during the meeting a junior doctor casually mentioned that I might need to have a liver transplant. He was reprimanded for by Dr Alexander. I do not consider my diagnosis was provided in an appropriate manner, but it made us realise how serious my condition was. I was not given any prognosis.
10. I consider I was provided with adequate information about HCV and how it could be transmitted during that meeting. Transmission was spoken of at the meeting

and girlfriends were mentioned as well as not sharing tooth brushes. Considering it was a new infection, I believe I was very well looked after and I would never have a bad word said against the hospital, they did their best to deal with it. I believe I was informed of my condition when it was first diagnosed.

Section 3. Other Infections

11. To my knowledge I am unaware if I have contracted any other infections as a result of receiving blood products.

Section 4. Consent

12. My blood was tested regularly but I didn't know the reason for the tests I thought it related to my Haemophilia. Therefore I do not know if I have been treated or tested without my knowledge or consent. Certainly I did not know I had been tested for HCV. I do not know if I have been treated or tested for the purpose of research.

Section 5. Impact

13. Mentally I found the diagnosis very hard to deal with even though I was very young. As I was in and out of hospital I was familiar with various conditions so I found the diagnosis hard.
14. My condition impacted on almost every aspect of my life, first as a result of haemophilia and then HCV. I was constantly worried whether I would ever get better, whether I was going to die, my ability to work and personal relationships.
15. My condition had a huge knock on effect on me and those around me. I had to have regular liver biopsies which were horrendous and it was stressful waiting to know whether my condition was better or worse. I was constantly worrying.
16. As a young child having to have a liver biopsy was an extremely traumatic experience. A needle was passed in between my ribs in order to take a sample of

- my liver. I was always very distressed by the process and it was a regular procedure that I had to go through.
17. All the aspects and the uncertainty relating to my illness have caused me a lot of anxiety and distress.
18. Around 5 or 6 years ago I received treatment for HCV, which was a combination of Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin for six months. The treatment involved an injection to the stomach every week and tablets every day. The side-effects were flu like symptoms and I just felt awful for six months. I managed to be able to work through the treatment but it certainly made it more difficult to perform my job. I tried to be positive but the treatment made me feel low.
19. Thankfully the treatment has been successful and I am now clear of HCV. However, I still have blood tests rather than liver biopsies to monitor my condition.
20. My treatment had an effect on my family life. My children were very young at the time and it was upsetting for them to see me injecting myself and being so ill. I was not able to play or spend a lot of time with them because I was so ill.
21. I believe that I received my treatment as soon as the doctors could give it to me.
22. I feel my infected status does have an impact on how people treat me.
23. My condition has also affected my family due to the uncertainty of my condition. They didn't know whether I was going to live and it dominated my every thought.
24. I was also worried as to whether I would ever be able to have a family of my own and this in itself had a massive impact on my social life and on relationships.
25. I do not think there is stigma attached to HCV. There was certainly stigma attached to AIDS; however, as there was not a lot of awareness of HCV at the

time I preferred not to tell people about my illness, as I did not know how they were going to react.

26. My condition also affected my education as I had to take a lot of time out of school in order to have my medical procedures and hospital appointments. Each time I had a liver biopsy I had to stay in the hospital for a few days and then at home recovering.

27. I do not believe that my HCV affected my career; however, there are certain aspects of it which were made more difficult because of my illness.

28. I often travel as a part of my job and travel insurance is more expensive as a direct result of my HCV but is fortunately paid for by my employer.

29. Similarly, BUPA is part of my employment package otherwise health insurance might not have been available to me due to the cost as a result of my Haemophilia and HCV.

30. There has been significant impact on my parents and my grandparents.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

31. Whilst I did not have any problem obtaining treatment for my HCV, I was never offered counselling. I believe that it would have been helpful

Section 7. Financial Assistance

32. Some time ago I have received around £20,000 from the Skipton Fund. I believe that I might have found out I was entitled to it from my treating Haemophilia Centre or I might have received a letter from the Fund.

33. I am also aware that there is a second payment of £20,000 available, but it is subject to my medical condition.

34. The application process for the Skipton Fund payment was straight forward and I had no difficulties applying for it. I am also not aware as to any pre-conditions attached to it.

Section 8. Other Issues

35. I hope that the Inquiry will be an opportunity for people to understand how real people have been affected by infected blood, they are not statistics and that a huge number of those people were children at the time.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

36. 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.

37. I am willing 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

Dean King

Dated *6/2/19*