

Witness Name: Simon Joseph Lindsay

Statement No: WITN1348001

Exhibits: None

Dated: January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SIMON JOSEPH LINDSAY

I, Simon Joseph Lindsay will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Simon Joseph Lindsay of GRO-C,
GRO-C, born on GRO-C 1974. I have been married for 10 years
and have 2 children aged 9 and 2. I am an electrical engineer.
2. I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry
Rules 2006. GRO-B
GRO-B
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my
late father's medical records.

Section 2. How affected

4. I make this statement in relation to my late father, GRO-D, born
on GRO-C 1951, who was infected with HIV by contaminated blood
products in the early 1980s when I was a child. He died in Coventry University
Hospital on GRO-C 2007 aged 56 years old after a big bleed in his head.

5. My father suffered from severe Haemophilia A.
6. I do not know how long my father had Factor VIII as I was only 9 at the time.
7. I believe that my father was mainly treated at the Coventry Haemophilia Centre at Coventry University Hospital.
8. I believe that my father was told that he was infected with HIV in or around 1983.
9. I believe that my father had every disease; he was infected with HIV, but the world was not accepting of this in the 1980s; he was also infected with Hepatitis B and non-A non-B Hepatitis (later renamed Hepatitis C).

Section 3. Other Infections

10. My father was also told that he had been exposed to vCJD (mad cow disease).

Section 4. Consent

11. I was only a child at the time, but my mother says the hospital tested my dad without his knowledge or consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

Impact on my Dad

12. After Dad was diagnosed with HIV he lost a lot of weight. He was very weak and very pale. He could not sleep, he did not look well at all and he suffered a lot.
13. My father was always very angry after the infection with HIV. He was very bitter and so he took it out on me. My father was very, very frustrated with

everything. From the age of about 12 years old I started getting hit. I got caned and hit with sticks a lot. My father would always snap at me and I would snap back. When my mum was out he used to hit me. He never punched me, as I suppose that he did not want to risk infecting me if he bled. Then as a teenager I got bigger and he couldn't do anything as he was also getting weaker. I didn't understand at the time why my father was acting like this but now I don't blame my dad for hitting me because I can't even dream of how he felt.

14. Mother said that he was given something to combat AIDS but not until 1989. The drugs given to him for treatment used to give him horrendous bleeds. He had operations on his ankle, knee and hip. He was always bandaged up. He always had bleeds in his joints and was always in pain.

Impact on me

15. Family life before my father was infected was fun and fine. We all used to go on holiday together as a family. My father was hard working and was a manager at the GRO-B even though he still suffered with haemophilia and it caused him arthritis. I felt that I could speak with him about anything.

16. Then everything changed. Around about 1981 or 1982, there were rumours about AIDS. After my father was told that he had been infected with HIV he became a totally different person; he wasn't my dad anymore. He even stopped getting along with my mother. I still suffer to this day.

17. I cannot remember exactly how old I was when I found out about Dad's HIV infection but I believe that I would have only been around 9 or 10 years old. I remember that my parents sat me down and told me that dad had haemophilia. I was not given all the details but they said that he contracted HIV from haemophilia treatment. I became more wary of hygiene. After his infection was diagnosed, everything was packed away from me and my

brother. My father used to have a cupboard with all his treatments in it that neither me nor my brother were allowed to touch.

18. At the time I was living at home after my dad had been infected I didn't know what I wanted. I was very suicidal at the time and I didn't care about life; my life was a mess. I felt 'ashamed' and very frustrated with it all. I was very confused, and I am still a bit like that today and I still suffer from it. I have tried to forget it but it isn't easy.

19. I didn't get on with my father after he was diagnosed with HIV. There was also mental torture as I was not allowed to do anything that I wanted. I never wanted to be at home. I used to be out of the house all day until curfew when my father locked the door and said I could not come in. I spent my days either with friends or alone.

20. I got most of the 'stick' when I was at GRO-C Community College from about the age of 12 or 13. I was devastated. I skived all my lessons and hated college so much and didn't want to be there. I was always getting in fights and scraps, as I wanted to take it out on others as I was getting it at home and at school so I couldn't deal with it. My education between the ages of 12 to 16 was very disrupted. I was frequently sent to the Headmaster and I was eventually expelled from college. I was only allowed back into college to sit my GCSE's but failed everything.

21. Around 1990, my dad kicked me out from home when I was about 16 years old. He told me to leave home which I did with two Tesco carrier bags of clothes. As a teenager it really wrecked me and I didn't know what to do. I had no job and no education.

22. I had just got a new girlfriend who knew someone who had a room to rent. My mum gave me some money to get into it and then I went to a local industrial site for a job and got paid around £100 a week to sand down doors. I worked there for about a year before I got laid off. I then moved to GRO-C and worked in a warehouse there when I was around 17 or 18 years old. After

that, I moved back to [GRO-C] in [GRO-C] and got another job with a friend whose father had his own business and who gave me an electrical job.

23. After I left home I only had very little contact with my mother for a few years and I would speak with her now and then on the phone. Mum was very upset about it all and about me moving out.

24. Then when I met my new girlfriend when I was around 30 or 31 years old, she persuaded me to start going home again, so I saw my parents again around 2006. My father died on [GRO-C] 2007 and then we got married on 25 October 2008. My mum is still part of my life but I never go back to [GRO-C] to see her because of the bad memories.

25. I didn't get my life together until my early 30s when I went back to college to train as an electrician at night school and sorted my life out. I used to go to work in the day and then to night school from 6-9pm three times a week. I qualified when I was about 33 and now have a decent job as an electrical engineer.

Impact on my brother

26. My brother was about four years younger than me so didn't really get the brunt of the beatings like I did.

27. My brother was only 12 years old when I left home and we did not have contact for a long time. Even now, we only meet up together at Christmas. We will always be there for each other, if needed, but apart from that then me and my brother aren't close. It is not a bad relationship, it's alright.

Stigma

28. I lived in [GRO-C] where everyone previously knew my father had haemophilia. Between 1981 and 1983 there was a lot of hearsay and whispers and people put two and two together and decided that

my dad must have HIV. People in [GRO-C] gave our family the 'cold shoulder' as I think that they were scared and ran away from HIV.

29. People were horrible to my father and stayed away. People used to make really horrible comments to us, which was normal stuff at the time. Nowadays you can't do that or you could be reported for harassment but life was different back then.

30. None of my parent's friends spoke to them after the infection. I didn't understand it. It was a horrible time for my father as he lost all his friends and he was very isolated. My parents never went out socially. It was only after my dad passed away in 2007 that my mother started getting bit more involved in community as the stigma had died down a bit.

31. I couldn't stay in the house because of the way people ignored them and I never go back to [GRO-C]; my mum comes out to visit me at my home. I have no contact with any old friends or anyone from [GRO-C].

32. I never told anyone about our family situation and only told my wife when all this inquiry came about. My wife has only really known for a year. I have only recently told one friend about it, when I opened up to him after he had suffered a serious accident. A lot more things are accepted now that I couldn't tell anyone before.

33. Mum had no contact with any other family as none of our extended family stood by us. My uncles did not want anything to do with my father. Dad's younger brother also had haemophilia and I believe that he died while I was still living at home. Dad's older brother didn't have haemophilia, but I have not had any contact at all with him for maybe 30 years at least.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

34. As I did not see my father between around 1990 and 2006 I don't know whether he had any issues obtaining treatment as he didn't share this with me when we got back in contact.

35. I was not given any counselling or support. Nothing has ever been offered to me and I was totally by myself but I believe that it would have really helped me at the time. I couldn't cope with it all and I believe that it did serious damage to me.

36. I feel a lot happier now as I can speak to my wife and feel that it is all being investigated.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

37. After his infection my dad was made redundant when the **GRO-B** **GRO-B** was shutdown and he never went back to work afterwards. I cannot remember the date he was made redundant but it was while I was still living at home. My mother said they did not receive any financial assistance as my father earned too much at the time to qualify.

Section 8. Other Issues

38. I would like to know whether the doctors wondered what was going to happen to '*these people*' in the long run or consider whether it would destroy families. I believe that they just thought '*let's make a quick buck*'. I believe that they knew what they were doing. I do not understand why they did not think of everyone else and ripping families apart. My dad's infection wrecked all our lives as a family and mine individually. I believe that something has to happen now. I am very confused, fed up and upset.

Anonymity

39. **NOT RELEVANT**

40. 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

Dated

10/2/19