

Witness Name: Anthony John Thurgood

Statement No: WITN3938001

Exhibits: WITN3938002 - WITN3938005

Dated: 10.02.2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANTHONY JOHN THURGOOD

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 23 December 2019.

I, Anthony John Thurgood, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Anthony John Thurgood. My date of birth is GRO-C 1932 and my address is GRO-C GRO-C Kent GRO-C I live on my own and I am a widower. I have 2 children and I am a grandfather and great grandfather. Before I retired I used to run my own haulage business. I retired when I was in my seventies.
2. I have Haemophilia B and I intend to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C from receiving contaminated blood. In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me and the treatment received.
3. I confirm that I am not currently legally represented and am happy for the Inquiry to assist me with my statement.

Section 2. How Infected

4. I was not diagnosed with Haemophilia until after I was married. When I was a child my parents did not know anything about the disorder, nobody knew anything about it back then and I never received any medical treatment for it. If I had a bleed we just had to sit indoors and wait until it stopped. I used to bleed like a pig. GRO-C
5. I was diagnosed with Haemophilia B at the Canterbury Haemophilia Centre but I do not remember the date. I think it was my doctor who referred me there and I have been registered with them ever since.
6. It is hard to pinpoint exactly when I was infected with Hepatitis C, however I believe that I may have been infected at Glasgow Royal Infirmary following a work accident. However, I had several accidents throughout my career, which resulted in me going to hospital and receiving blood products/ Factor IX Concentrate. The first accident was in Glasgow in the 1950's. I was stacking a trailer attached to my truck, when I fell off the back and was punctured by the steel railing. I was bleeding badly and taken to 3 different hospitals in an ambulance before I was able to receive treatment at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where I was given a blood transfusion.
7. I am unable to recall whether I was asked to sign anything giving my consent. I was not kept in overnight and was free to leave following the blood transfusion. I felt very unwell afterwards and had to be driven back home to the South as I was unable to drive myself.
8. I was also involved in another accident at work some years later in Maidstone when I was taken to Kent and Canterbury Hospital and given Factor IX to stop the bleeding.
9. I received Factor IX several times at Kent and Canterbury Hospital when visiting the dentist. My mouth always bled badly during any dental work

and I would be given Factor IX for any bleed. I needed root canal treatment and had to have Factor IX injected beforehand.

10. I was infected with Hepatitis C although I am not sure when exactly, but I am requesting my medical records to help pinpoint when I was first diagnosed with the virus.

11. I attend Kent and Canterbury Haemophilia Centre and go for routine appointments every 6 months.

12. I do not remember being told about any risk of any infection when receiving Factor IX product at Kent and Canterbury Hospital and I was on my own during the blood transfusion at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and was not told of any risk, however, it was a long time ago.

13. I did not have any symptoms or realise that I had Hepatitis C until I was diagnosed at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. I cannot recall when it was diagnosed; I was told in person that I had contracted the virus following a blood test. I do not remember anyone explaining the risk of infecting others or offering me medication for it. Neither do I recall any advice being given about diet or alcohol or how I came about to be tested for it.

14. I can confirm that I do not have any piercings, tattoos and have never taken any intravenous drugs.

Section 3. Other Infections

15. I am not aware that I was infected with anything other than Hepatitis C. I have had tests for HIV and been found negative in 1985 and I provide the document confirming the results to the Inquiry. (WITN3938002)

Section 4. Consent

16. I do not believe that I have been tested without my consent or knowledge, nor do I think that I was tested on or treated for the purposes of research. However, I have not always been given adequate information to understand the nature of the infection or the risks associated with it.

Section 5. Impact

17. I do not believe I have suffered serious psychological effects from being infected. I am not aware of any further medical complications resulting from the Hepatitis. However, I have had heart problems and underwent an aortic aneurysm repair in 2019. I also have high blood pressure and a bad chest for which I recently attended an appointment at Maidstone Hospital on 21 January 2020. This came about when one of the nurses picked up on my breathing during a routine appointment, resulting in my subsequent referral for further investigation.

18. My daughter knows that I was infected with Hepatitis C and helps me with the paperwork and the medical side of things. It does not affect my relationship with my family and I see my daughter every week.

19. My GRO-C have never been offered any tests for Hepatitis C as far as I am aware and I was never warned about any risk of cross infection by any health professionals.

20. I have not experienced any stigma from anyone concerning my Hepatitis C status. I only tell people if they ask me, so not many people know. I have told my dentist and they were fine with it and it has not prevented me from receiving any additional treatment that I need. For any major dental work, I have to visit the hospital first as with my root canal treatment when I had to go to the hospital to get my injection before going to the dentists.

21. I was already retired by the time I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C so it did not affect my work or have any financial impact.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

22. Despite being diagnosed some time ago, I was only recently offered treatment in December 2019 for my Hepatitis C virus. I have just finished an 8-week course of anti-viral medication called Maviret. I was half way through this treatment on 11 December 2019 as shown in the consultant's letter from Maidstone hospital of the same date. (WITN3938003)

23. I didn't suffer any noticeable side effects from the treatment. I am due for my check-up in April 2020 to see if the infection has cleared. Prior to this treatment, I have not taken any medication for my Hepatitis C and to the best of my knowledge I do not recall having ever been offered any treatment. I have been shown a letter from Maidstone Hospital, which states that I had previously declined treatment for Hepatitis C, however, I have no recollection of this. (WITN3938004) I am under the care of a consultant at Maidstone Hospital and I am currently happy with the treatment I receive.

24. I had liver function tests and a fibroscan at Maidstone Hospital in 2016, which showed no cirrhosis. (WITN3938005)

25. I do not recall ever being offered any kind of psychological support or counselling when I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C. I have just dealt with things on my own.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

26. I was informed about the Skipton Fund either by my doctor or the Hepatitis C Trust. I cannot remember exactly how it all came about but I

applied for it and have since received payments. I received money from the Skipton Fund in 2017 and in 2019 I received a letter from EIBSS regarding uplift to my payments, which are paid quarterly. I am also in receipt of the winter fuel allowance.

Section 8. Other Issues

27. It is very good that the Inquiry is carrying out its work and I am happy for the Inquiry team to do whatever they need to do. I cannot blame anyone who has personally treated me. My view is that it was just bad luck at the time that I was infected with Hepatitis C.

28. As previously mentioned I am requesting my medical records from Maidstone Hospital, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Glasgow Royal Infirmary and my GP's surgery. My current GP is Dr Franklin and I have been with the same practice in GRO-C for over 50 years.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

18.3.2020 —