

Witness Name: Alan Jamieson

Statement No.: WITN4182001

Exhibits: WITN4182002

Dated: 25th June 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ALAN JAMIESON

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 23rd April 2020.

I, Alan Jamieson, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Alan Jamieson. My date of birth is GRO-C 1961 and my address is known to the inquiry. I have been married to my wife Joyce for thirty five years and we have two children, GRO-C. I am currently self-employed and work as a driving instructor and have been doing that for fourteen years. I intend to speak about my father David Mackie Leckie Jamieson who was born on the GRO-C 1915 and passed away on 28th February 1990 from non-A non-B hepatitis and kidney failure. I will speak in particular about the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment he received and the impact it had on his and our lives together as a family.
2. I do not wish to be anonymous for this statement.

Section 2. How Infected

3. My dad was a very good father, he was very caring and loyal to the people in his life. He was very interested in making model boats and planes in his spare time and he loved gardening as well. He was a joiner and carpenter by trade in the early part of his life and then went on to become a self-employed business owner in medical supplies in the 1950s and ran that business until he retired. He retired around two years before he died and because of that was never able to enjoy any quality of retirement.
4. I had a very strong relationship with Dad, we were always very close. My son and I have an identical relationship now ourselves, and I am very happy I can have that with him.
5. My father was diagnosed with renal failure sometime in 1987. He began renal dialysis at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and catheter assisted patient dialysis at home to treat his renal failure shortly after his diagnosis. He would receive dialysis three times a week. We latterly found out that this kind of treatment was very life limiting. The expected life expectancy for most people on this treatment is five years, my Dad died after three years. For his dialysis, he would be picked up by a patient ambulance from his home and be taken to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary for treatment and then returned at the end of the day. At the end of each day he would be exhausted, his treatment was an extremely physically demanding procedure. At that time, all he did was go back and forth to the hospital for his treatment, he didn't have the energy for anything else. As part of his dialysis treatment at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary he would receive blood transfusions. He had three treatments a week there and received a blood transfusion each time. My Dad was infected with non-A non-B hepatitis from these blood transfusions. I do not know which of these transfusions led to his infection.
6. A few weeks before my Dad died, his condition deteriorated very rapidly and he was admitted to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The hospital staff were not completely honest with us at that time, they did not tell us that he had

hepatitis. We only found out he had contracted non-A non-B hepatitis after he died. A few days after he was admitted to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, we were contacted by the hospital to say that he had assaulted one of the nurses. We were told that he had grabbed a nurse in some way. I know my Dad, there was not a chance he would have ever done anything like that to anyone. He simply did not have that sort of thing in him, it was not in his nature. We were told that he was being moved to Parkhead Hospital, Glasgow, which was a mental health hospital, as a result of what they alleged had happened. He was taken there by ambulance that same day. My Mum and I went there straight away and managed to meet him at Parkhead Hospital. That was the point that his health deteriorated very quickly.

7. A meeting was arranged with my mother and I at Parkhead Hospital to discuss my Dad's health a few days later. I cannot remember the exact date of the meeting or who we spoke to but I remember the meeting itself was in a room with around half a dozen medical professionals. The exact words that were said to us were that "*he's had a good innings, three score year and ten is what is normal and he is seventy four*". In other words, they were telling us it was time to let him go. They asked us at that meeting for our permission to stop his treatment. From what we had seen of my Dad's health in the days prior to this meeting, I believe they had stopped his treatment sometime before that. He was extremely mentally wandered, I think his body was poisoned basically. He knew who we were but he couldn't speak. The last time I saw him, he still could not speak and there were just tears rolling down his face because he couldn't actually speak to us. I think he knew he was going to die but he just didn't have the power to speak to us and be heard.
8. I think they had let him reach a very bad state so that we basically had no option but to agree with what they were going to suggest. I firmly believe they ended my Dad's life. My Mum and I were sent to a private room, given a pot of tea and left to make that decision. We did decide to take their advice, we knew nothing about the hepatitis and we didn't know he had contracted it during treatment for his dialysis. We took their advice, because at that point

Dad was at such a low point that he no longer had a good quality of life. Once we had agreed to stop his treatment, he died within twelve hours.

9. I do not believe my Dad was ever provided with any information about the risk posed from receiving these blood transfusions. Neither my mother nor myself were ever aware of any such advice being provided to him either
10. We only discovered that my father had non-A non-B hepatitis after seeing his death certificate. I exhibit my father's death certificate as **WITN4182002**. I was with my mother when we registered his death at Eastwood Registrars office in Giffnock. So, it was only then that I saw the death certificate and discovered he had contracted the infection. I made no connection between the non-A non-B hepatitis and the blood products my Dad had received at the time, I just accepted the information. I had no idea where the infection had come from and the hospital offered no explanation either. My Dad died not knowing that he had contracted this infection.

Section 3. Other Infections

11. I am not aware of my father having contracted any other infections other than hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

12. I do not believe my father was ever treated or tested without his knowledge.
13. I believe that my Dad's treatment was stopped without his consent. My belief is that the doctors in charge of his care at Parkhead Hospital stopped his treatment before consulting my mother and myself. There was information they had about him that they were not forthcoming with and I think that is why they pressured us into making that decision.
14. I believe that they stopped his treatment without his knowledge and without his family's knowledge. Neither my Dad nor his family were provided with full

and adequate information. The speed with which his health deteriorated in those last few days of his life makes me strongly believe that they had stopped his treatment.

15. I have not considered that my father's treatment or the tests performed on him could have been used for research, but it is possible. There could be something to be learned from any form of treatment that a patient gets, there will be data and information that could be drawn from that so there is a chance they could have done that with my Dad.

Section 5. Impact

16. My father did not know that he had hepatitis but I would say that infection definitely had an effect on top of his renal failure. He was almost unrecognisable at the end of his life. His mental health deteriorated so much as his health declined. He was mentally wandered, he started to see things that weren't there. I remember once I went to visit him and he was certain there was something lying on the carpet. He kept trying to reach for it and there was absolutely nothing there. Physically, my Dad lost the ability to speak in the last few weeks of his life. He was also suffering from extreme fatigue, he just had no energy at all. That's all I can really remember from that time.
17. I cannot say whether my Dad developed any further medical conditions from his infections but I think that dementia was also listed on his death certificate.
18. The hospitals attitude was that he had a good run so I don't think they ever considered treatment for his hepatitis, if they knew at the time. I do not think they were at all willing to help him.
19. At the stage my Dad had contracted hepatitis, his social life was essentially over. He was only ever going between his house and the hospital but being at home was not as pleasant as it should have been. GRO-D

GRO-D

GRO-D During his treatment for renal failure, before he was admitted to hospital, he arrived at my wife and I's home in tears. GRO-D

GRO-D

20. I do not think I have ever fully recovered from what happened to Dad. His death tore me to pieces, it completely tore me apart. I know that there are a lot of people who lose their parents at a much younger age but I was only twenty nine years old when he died. I felt that I was far too young to have lost him and to have lost the benefits of having him in my life. I know I could have done with a few more years of his guidance and help.
21. My father retired around the same time he was diagnosed with renal failure. He was seventy two at that stage, I think he realised that the job he did would be too physically demanding for him to continue with. Especially in the light of starting dialysis, I don't think he would have been able to keep working. He owned the business with my mother and laterally, it was run by just the two of them. He did orders, he did deliveries where he would be delivering huge boxes of paper towels etc. with no dolly or cart. It wasn't something he was able to continue with.
22. I don't think there any adverse financial effects from my father having to retire. My mother had inherited quite a large amount some time before Dad's retirement from her late father. She was pretty comfortable financially because of that and so I don't think there was any great financial effect from my father's retirement.

Section 6. Treatment, Care and Support.

23. As far as I can remember, I would not say that my father ever faced any difficulties in accessing treatment, care or support. He was able to get treatment for his renal failure without issue but it was the treatment that caused so many problems for him.
24. Counselling and psychological support was never made available to my father as far as I know. It has never been offered to me either. I think I would have benefited from that kind of help if it had been available.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

25. My father did not receive any financial assistance before his death as far as I am aware. I know for certain that my mother did not receive any financial assistance either.

Section 8. Other Issues

26. Thompsons Solicitors have attempted to recover my father's medical records. I understand that due to the passage of time they may have been destroyed, however I am unable to clarify this because the NHS have advised that due to Covid-19, they are unable to issue medical records at present. I do not know when this will change. I am frustrated by this as the records should contain an explanation and answers as to what happened to Dad. Further to this without them, my family is not eligible to apply for compensation from SIBSS.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed Alan Jamieson (Jun 25, 2020 10:21 GMT+1)

Dated Jun 25, 2020