



Witness Name: Christine Shaw

Statement No.: WITN4813001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE TERESA SHAW

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 19 January 2021.

I, Christine Teresa Shaw, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My date of birth is GRO-C 1947 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am married with 3 children, 2 daughters and a son. I am now retired, but I previously worked as a shop worker.
2. I have been asked to initially detail my interaction with Skipton Fund in this statement. Additionally I will give some details of my infection with hepatitis C (HCV) and treatment, for context.

Section 2. How Affected

3. I was admitted to Firs Maternity Home in Leigh for my son's birth in 1972. Following my son being born, I haemorrhaged as there was trouble with my placenta, so I received a blood transfusion with 2 or 3 units of blood. I

should have only stayed in hospital for 48 hours, but I ended up being kept in for over a week.

4. Firs Maternity Home has since been knocked down, as it was a very old building and used to be a workhouse. The doctor that administered my blood transfusion has since died and I do not remember much about the actual transfusion.
5. After I was sent home from hospital, I believed everything was normal in terms of my health.
6. In January 2016, I received a hip replacement. I was asked if I wanted to donate my hip bone, and I said yes. When I was sent home a few weeks after my hip replacement, the Consultant contacted me at my GP surgery rang me to say I could not donate my hip, as it had been tested and I had HCV. I had no idea at all and I was asked to go straight to the doctors to receive treatment.
7. I was informed that I had Hepatitis C genotype 1. They probably explained to me at the time what this meant, but I cannot remember what the doctor said.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. As far as I am aware, I have never had any further infections other than HCV. There was no mention of any other infections when I was informed of my diagnosis of HCV.

Section 4. Consent

9. I do not believe that I have ever been treated or tested without my consent.

Section 5. Impact

10. Ever since 1972, I have generally been in good health and I have not had any health issues that I knew of. I am now clear of HCV.
11. I have only told my family that I had HCV and I have had no stigma surrounding the infection.
12. It had no effect on my education, my work or my finances.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

13. When I was informed of my HCV infection, I went to my GP straight away and I was sent to Leigh Infirmary. I was referred directly to the gastroenterology section to the clinical nurse specialists.
14. I was immediately started on Abbvie 3D+ Ribaruvir, 400mg in the morning and 400mg in the evening. After starting the treatment, I had regular blood tests, but I was not tested before being started on the treatment. My first treatment was 12 weeks and I was under the care of the Infirmary for 1 year. I had no side effects whilst taking the medication, I was completely fine.
15. The treatment I received was excellent. I had no negative side effects of the treatment.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

16. I applied to the Skipton Fund in March 2017. I found out about it from the Specialist Nurse that was treating me.
17. My daughter and I completed the application forms, but they asked for my medical records and we were unable to obtain these as they had been destroyed.

18. When I contacted my GP for my medical records, the Practice Manager told me that they had no records for me at all or any records of me having had any of my three children.
19. I was shocked when I was first told the surgery had no records of any of my 3 children. I could not understand it. The Practice Manager told me they all had a good look at the Surgery and there were no records whatsoever. The Local Health Authority told the Surgery that they would ease their burden and get rid of the records.
20. I have had no other transfusions and I have no history of intravenous drug use, so the likelihood is that my HCV infection came from the transfusion in 1972.
21. I have not applied for any financial support from anywhere else.
22. I have been told about the English Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS) and I am considering applying to them for financial assistance.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 10/2/21