

Witness Name: Michelle Rumsey

Statement No: WITN6427001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: August 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MICHELLE RUMSEY

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I  
I, Michelle Rumsey, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Michelle Rumsey. I was born on GRO-C 1977 and I live at GRO-C Kent GRO-C
2. My father, Peter Hathaway (born on GRO-C 1948), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He died on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2001, aged 52.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records. I was told that my father's medical records are missing.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

4. My father had severe Haemophilia A. He was treated at the Haemophilia Centre at St Thomas' Hospital in London under the care of Dr Savidge.
5. My father had a vast amount of non heat treated Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate as treatment and was told that he had become infected with HIV as a result, some time in the 1980s. He was co-infected with HBV and HCV but wasn't told that he had HCV until sometime in or around 1991.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

6. My father was co-infected with HIV, HBV and HCV. I am not aware of any other infection.

## **Section 4. Consent**

7. My father believed he had been treated and tested without his knowledge and consent and without adequate information. He was not pre-warned of the risk of infection through FVIII products. He was so upset to learn that he had become infected through contaminated blood products that he told me that he didn't want any more treatment. He had a real fear of becoming contaminated with more infections. He no longer trusted his doctors or the NHS.

## **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

8. My parents separated in the early 1980s when I was 4 years old and the separation was partly due to my father's ill health. After my parents separated,

I had no contact with my father, which I later learnt was due to his struggles living with the effects of HIV and HCV. My father spent most of his time in hospital and suffered from severe depression. He had his own battles in managing his health and dealing with the aftermath of being infected with HIV and HCV. This left no emotional or physical time for his children (my brother and I). My father lost his brother in the late 1980s to HIV. He was infected alongside my father around the same time. I was raised by my mother, GRO-C

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9. Growing up in the 1980s without a father was rare and impacted me on my social interactions with others. Due to the lack of financial contribution by my father during our childhood, GRO-D we spent a period being homeless and living in a hostel. We had interventions from social services due to our lack of needs being met as children.

10. It was not until after I left home at 17 years old that I was able to start to have contact with my father. My mother and father's relationship and their separation were acrimonious. Unfortunately, my father had no financial resources to enable him to fight for custody in court or even the emotional capacity to do so due to his ill health. Being infected with HIV and HCV resulted in me being deprived of a relationship with my father, which is something I became more aware of in adulthood. I had a period of just five years within which to spend time with my father and that short time available was limited due to him being in hospital for a majority of the time. As well as suffering with auto immune deficiency and poor healing post surgeries, he had cirrhosis and succumbed to liver failure.

11. I was 23 years old when my father died. I had no relationship with him as a child and my time with him as an adult was short. He did not see his grandchildren and was not alive to see me get married. It is difficult to put into words the impact on me of not having my father around. This was not through his choice or mine and it was because he was infected with HIV and HCV. I

saw the suffering he went through when I was an adult, and I don't believe anyone could possibly understand what this was like for a human being to have so much taken away through the negligence of others. As his daughter I have had no recognition for what I have lost. His wife re-married and had a child with someone else. She is the only beneficiary/recipient (apart from my father) to have had financial assistance through the Trusts and Funds. As his daughter I have been forgotten about, yet I lost a father.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

12. I am unable to comment on the treatment, care and support my father received.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

13. I do not know the extent to which my father (and/or wife) was assisted by the Trusts and Funds.

#### **Section 7. Other Matters**

14. My father being co-infected with contaminated blood products has had far reaching repercussions. I now have no trust in the NHS and have a deep rooted fear of giving birth to a son (with haemophilia). As a result, I made the difficult decision to have a termination before my eldest daughter. I was in my late teens and my initial reaction was fear and dread of the unknown because of everything that had happened.

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GRO-C arrangements were made for blood to be sent from Ireland (where my father lived) for the test and the hospital initially said there was no genetic

connection with my father (later corrected by them). They advised me that my father could not therefore be my biological father. He and my stepmother were outraged and insisted that they re-test the blood and admitted they had made a mistake. They have now apparently lost his records and have even lost the blood sample set aside to test future generations.

**Anonymity**

15. I do not seek anonymity and I understand that this Statement will be disclosed for publication to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.....

GRO-C

Dated...31/08/2021.....