

Witness Name: C MONAGHAN

Statement No: WITN2929001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: October 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE MONAGHAN

I, Christine Monaghan, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. I am Christine Monaghan of GRO-C
GRO-C Manchester GRO-C My date of birth is
GRO-C 1956. I am married and live with my
husband and youngest son. We have four grown up
children. I am a childminder now. I was employed
by the National Westminster bank many years ago.
2. I make this statement on behalf of my Mum, Pauline
Mary Stott, who was born on GRO-C 1935 and
died on 15th March 1974; she was only 39 years
old. Mum contracted Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result
of receiving contaminated blood products and
passed away as a result of liver and renal failure. I
was only 17 when she died. I had three younger
brothers, Brian (14 years old at the time) , John (15)
and Adrian (10). I understand that both Brian and
John have given statements to the Inquiry.
3. This statement has been prepared without the
benefit of access to my late Mum's full medical
records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. Mum had problems with her heart for as long as I could remember. She had had an accident in her childhood and at the age of 13 got rheumatic fever which left her with a weak heart. It was suggested that an operation would help her. Unfortunately, I do not have any information in relation to the operation itself nor details of the advice she was given. Unfortunately my father has also died and he did not provide any further information.
5. Mum received a blood transfusion during her heart operation which took place at the beginning of March 1974. I presume she would have been told about the blood transfusion as the operation was a major procedure which we were told would take about 10 hours. The operation was a success and I remember being told this by the consultant and Dad.
6. After the operation Mum stayed in the intensive care unit; her skin colour had turned orange and she actually looked like an orange. She was connected to machines and tube. She had to have a tracheotomy to assist her breathing.
7. She had the operation at Wythenshawe Hospital but I do not recall the name of the consultant she was in the care of.
8. I have no memories of the consultant but I remember speaking to him and my father and being told that Mum had only two weeks to live. I was in complete shock.
9. Whilst I do not recall much of the conversation as it was a very traumatic time, the consultant told us that Mum had contracted Hepatitis from the blood given during the heart operation. There was some discussion about it but I do not recall it all; I know it was to do with the liver but I didn't know exactly what it meant. We were told that we had to be grown up.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. I only know that Mum had been infected with

Hepatitis as a result of her heart surgery. I do not know if she was infected with any other virus.

Section 4. Consent

11. Mum consented to the heart operation. She was 39 years old at the time but had been told that her heart was the equivalent of a 70 year old woman's heart. My grandmother had advised Mum against having the operation.
12. Mum was a clever woman and I do not know exactly what had been discussed with her by the doctors in relation to risks about the blood transfusion. After the operation the consultants said they did everything possible but unfortunately there was nothing else they could do and told us that she was going to die. It was so traumatic at the time I couldn't take anything in.

Section 5. Impact

13. Mum stayed in intensive care. She was able to talk to us despite her condition and tracheotomy. I am not sure whether she had been told that she was going to die; she certainly didn't discuss this with me but I think I assumed that she had.
14. We told each other how much we loved each other. I remember her voice was very gruff as the tubes had been taken out of her throat; this was a couple of days before she died.
15. I visited Mum in hospital usually at the weekends and evenings as I was working full time at the time and looking after my brothers. I became the carer for my younger brothers. My maternal grandparents wanted to help out but my father fell out with them. Dad became quite abusive at this time; he used to drink alcohol as a coping mechanism.
16. When I visited Mum in the hospital I remember I had to gown up.
17. When Mum died she was put into a sealed coffin. I was told that it was due to the infection. It was such

an upsetting time. I remember that we were not allowed to see her in the Chapel of Rest as the coffin was sealed straightaway. This was very upsetting and certainly for me I felt like I did not have closure. My younger brothers were very distressed to see Mum in hospital because at the time they visited she was connected to numerous tubes and machines. I only took them to visit her on one occasion because it was so upsetting for them.

18. She died in the evening on 15th March 1974, approximately 2 weeks after her heart operation. I was not at the hospital with her. I remember that I arrived home at 10pm that evening; I had a bad feeling. My father told me she had passed away. Brian and John knew but we didn't want to wake Adrian up as he was already in bed so he found out the following day.

19. Before this we were a close family. Following Mum's death Dad fell out with our grandparents and did not let them visit us. It is as if Dad blamed us for Mum's death. He took his anger out on me and would pick fights with me. I remember that he gave me a couple of black eyes. He threw me out of the house on numerous occasions which was horrendous.

20. My father just lost it. He would get up to go for work though and kept his job up. He had a good job as an electrician in the power stations. He would drink when he got home and keep the boys up out of bed. It was a long time ago but it still affects me. He was so awful with me that I had to leave and I feel guilty that I left the boys there with him.

21. Brian [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] He ended up being taken in by a family friend who encouraged him to join the RAF. John went to live with my gran. Adrian would not leave my father; [GRO-C]
[GRO-C]

22. I remember one day when we had no food in the house and no money but Dad came home with a gold bracelet for a woman we didn't know. He made Brian take it to her.

23. On reflection I wonder why I didn't do things differently but I was so young at the time.

24. Our father travelled for his job and I was left to look after the boys. There was no stability for them because he kept telling me to leave the house and then when he was away would ask me to go back to look after them.

25.

GRO-C

GRO-C

 Brian and John got a flat together; they were only 16 and 17 respectively. This was as a direct result of my father's abusive attitude to them.

26. I got married at the age of 19; I thought it was my escape route in a way. It was the wrong thing to do at the time and my family kept telling me not to do it.

GRO-D

 whilst the marriage broke down I stayed with him for 18 years and had two children with him. I was 38 when I divorced him. I remarried and have two further children and a husband who is entirely different; a wonderful and lovely man.

27. Dad was diagnosed with bone cancer a few years ago. He was unable to drink because of the treatment. Despite the treatment we had endured we rallied around him as he was poorly. Adrian gave up work to give time to care for him. We were all together when he died. It was hard but at the end of the day he was still our father.

28. If Mum had still been alive I do not think I would have married as I felt safe with her.

GRO-D

GRO-D

 I could not be happier now. I was dreading giving this witness statement as I have kept feelings so deeply buried and I find it difficult to speak about when Mum died and what happened within the family afterwards. It had a huge impact on my life.

29. My father thought I was to blame and I was like a

ragdoll to him. He didn't want me around. My father never bothered with John, Brian or I. GRO-C

GRO-C

GRO-C I asked my father why he didn't love me. He told me that he did but it was a strange way to show us. My father changed completely when Mum died. The whole family fell apart.

30. I could not end up bitter and twisted; I just had to get on with it. It did affect the course of my life. When I left school at the age of 16 I worked for the Natwest bank. Mum gave me guidance but unfortunately my brothers missed out on that guidance. I think if she had still been alive I would not have got married at such a young age.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

31. My siblings and I were not offered any counselling after our Mum passed away. At the time we were too busy with having to deal with our Father.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

32. As far as I believe my father received no payment or financial assistance from any trust or fund following Mum's death.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

33. I do not wish to remain anonymous. I understand that my statement will be disclosed and published as part of the Inquiry.
34. I do not wish 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

Christine Monaghan

Dated..22/10/2019.....

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