Witness Name: David Corroyer

Statement No: WITN3004003

Exhibits:

Dated: APRIL 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID CORROYER

I, David Corroyer, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is David Corroyer. My date of birth is GRO-C 1958. I live at GRO-C GRO-C, Essex, GRO-C. I have been married for 32 years and have 2 children, who are 27 and 29 years old. I work as an engineering tutor at a local college and have worked in education for the past 16 years.

2. I was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus in March 1980. I was a frequent blood donor and on this particular occasion had given blood via a non-sterilized needle.

3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Infected

4. In 1975 when I turned 16 years old, I began to work for a local engineering company called Aladdin Components in GRO-C Essex. Twice a year the NHS would set up a blood donor centre at GRO-C a local factory also based in GRO-C where my colleagues and I would attend and donate blood. I believe the nurses who conducted the sessions were sent from Southend Hospital.

5. Overall I donated blood on four separate occasions. I would do my good deed and happily donate. This was before AIDS became well-known, so as general practice the nurses would use the same needle ten or more times. The only precaution taken was that the needle would be given a quick swirl in sterilizing liquid before use.

6. Around two weeks later, I was very quickly taken ill suffering from intense vomiting and diarrhoea. I went to my GP, Dr Taylor in Hockley, who stated that it must be food poisoning. Up to this date I did not suffer from any previous health conditions.

7. One week later, my condition deteriorated to the point that I was unable to eat anything without vomiting. My urine was bright orange and my skin was bright yellow so again, I went to see the doctor.

8. When I opened the door, the doctor took one look at me and told me to go straight home as he would be sending a health visitor to my house instead. When I asked him why, he said he thought I had Hepatitis C or Jaundice due the colour of my skin.

9. When the health visitor came I was asked a series of questions in an attempt to establish how I contracted Hepatitis C. I was asked if I had eaten sea food, if I was a drug addict, had a tattoo or whether I had had sex with anyone who had hepatitis. I replied no to all of these, I was then asked if I had recently had any injections. I told them I had given blood two weeks prior and her reply was "that's it an infected needle from being a blood donor, it has happened before".

10. I was then told I would have to take leave from work for three months and would be unable to drink alcohol for two years because my liver was in a terrible state. After this two year period I would be able to drink in moderation. I was also told I would never be able to donate blood again.

11. The following week I went to Southend Hospital for tests, the results stated I had jaundice / Hepatitis, all medical history relating to all of the above has either been lost or destroyed except for the hospital test results.

12. Apart from the medication I initially received, I never received any further treatment. Nor have I ever had any scans to check the state of my liver. The only advice I was given was that I needed to look after myself.

13. At the time, nobody told me that I shouldn't have unprotected sex or provide any advice on how to manage any other aspects of my lifestyle going forward.

Section 3. Other Infections

14. I did not contract any other infections apart from Jaundice and Hepatitis C as a result of donating blood.

Section 4. Consent

15. Although I gave consent to the company to give blood, I did not consent for my blood to be tested for medical or research purposes.

16. I am unable to recall if I signed any documentation prior to donating, but I do not believe any risks or knowledge on the matter were discussed.

Section 5. Impact

17. After I caught the infection I was horrendously ill for 2 years. I was run down, constantly in a state of worry and lost a significant amount of weight. I had to learn to control my diet along with what I drank. If I didn't control these, the consequences would be horrendous. I was never the same again.

18. I remember a year after I was diagnosed, I went on holiday to Benidorm with my friends and having watched them all enjoy themselves, decided to drink too. Unfortunately, I collapsed and woke up a day and a half later.

19. Due to the condition of my liver I can now only have one pint of beer and certainly no spirits or I become light headed and violently ill. I always felt like the "idiot in the corner."

20. I have managed to keep healthy for the past 38 years by keeping to a strict diet plan as started all those years ago, despite the effects on my social life when I was younger.

21. Whenever I consulted the doctors at Blenheim Chase Surgery and Southbourne Grove (both of which I was registered to during the late 1980s/early 1990s) I was always under the impression that they knew about my diagnosis, however I found out that they didn't have any of my medical records prior to 1992. I became incredibly worried that if something were to happen to me, then there would be significant risks because no-one knew a thing. I could have keeled over at any moment.

22. I believe the diagnosis has had a significant impact on my personal relationships. My girlfriend and I broke up around 7 months later because we couldn't enjoy our relationship anymore. My girlfriend's family owned a pub where I would sometimes stay on the

weekends, but quite obviously I was unable to be social in this environment. I used to be the life and soul of the party, so my diagnosis was devastating.

23. At the football I am known as "One-pint Dave". The infection has definitely held back my ability to maintain relationships because of the attention that blood borne viruses had received in the media.

24. I met my wife 2 years after my diagnosis. We had a conversation about getting married and having children, but I was always worried about passing away too soon and my health taking a turn for the worse. I worried I wouldn't be able to look after my family.

25. I believe I experienced significant stigma, often having to explain that what I had was not AIDS. Now I ensure only those who need to know are told; this includes close family and close work colleagues. This was a time when if I had told anyone outside my family I had hepatitis they would presume I had full blown AIDS and run a mile so was a family secret.

26. Greater awareness of HIV/AIDS only came about almost four years after my diagnosis. I really thought I had AIDS which was torture to think about. I still have never had this checked.

27. Nothing changed in terms of educational aspirations. I returned to work and everything continued as usual. I was an apprentice at the time, so the main consequence was a loss of earnings. Luckily at the time I was living with my parents so I did not have many outgoings.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

28. I believe that there should have been more treatment available.

29. I was given no follow up treatment nor did I receive any form of after care/counselling.

30. I believe I experienced depression for a few years following the news of my diagnosis but I did not seek any help for this, nor was it offered.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

31. I have never been offered any financial assistance.

32. I believe my father wrote a letter of complaint but never received a response. I also approached a solicitor, who sent a letter to the company but again we received no reply. That was as far as I got.

Section 8. Other Issues

33. For the past 3 months, I have been attempting to obtain my medical records which I previously believed to be lost. I have just received confirmation from my doctor stating that; "We have found lab results i.e. paper notes dated 6th May 1980 for liver function test on which the doctor or requestor has confirmed you had OBSTRUCTIVE JAUNDICE / INFECTIVE HEPATITIS."

34. Many people now ask me why I never took the decision to sue, but it just wasn't the culture at the time. I used to dislike anyone who would try to do this, but having been affected for 38 years I feel I am owed monetary compensation for the trauma I have been put through.

35. It was a different era back then. It was an era of bad practice, where there was no feedback and no real consultation from any of the medical professionals. It is a huge worry that there also seems to be a pattern of people's medical records going missing.

36. It wasn't until AIDS became well known that people would take my infection seriously.

37. I do not believe an investigation was conducted when I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C. I would hope that now there would be some form of investigation to ensure something like this never happens again.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

38. I do not wish to apply for anonymity.

39. I am fully aware that this statement will be published and disclosed as a part of the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed... GRO-C ....

Dated... 1.7.19 ....