Witness Name: Michael Peter Doran
Statement No: WITN5409001
Exhibits: **WITN5409002-WITN5409007**
Dated: 11 - 01 - 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MICHAEL PETER DORAN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 04 August 2021.

I, Michael Peter Doran, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Michael Peter Doran. My date of birth is GRO-C 1956 and I am one of 5 children. I live in GRO-C Lincolnshire and my full address is known to the Inquiry. I am married with 4 children; 3 girls and a boy.

2. I intend to speak about my late father, Stephen Cornelius Doran and about his infection with Hepatitis C ("HCV"), the nature of his illness, the impact it had on him, his family, and on our lives together.

3. I confirm that I am not currently legally represented and that I am happy for the Inquiry Team to assist with my statement. The Inquiry's statement

of approach and the option to apply for anonymity has also been explained to me, however I wish to bear my name.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My father was born on 16 July 1924 in Southern Ireland and grew up in County West Meath which was a strong catholic area. He was one of 7 children; 5 boys and 2 girls. Unfortunately, he and his four brothers were diagnosed with haemophilia which affected him throughout his life. I believe He first came to the UK when he was around 20 to 22 years of age. He first worked for Ruston Bucyrus steel foundry in Lincoln, which is no longer in existence.

5. My father's interest was in nursing and he became a mental health nurse at St John's mental health hospital in Lincoln when he was 27 or 28 years old. My mum was a nurse too and that is how they met, mum was 18 and he was 29. My mum, Serena, was one of 14 children born in Baumber, which is a small village in Lincolnshire, mum moved to Lincoln to start her career in nursing.

6. My late father was exposed to blood products before 1 September 1991 and the probability is that he suffered a long-term chronic phase of ill health due to hepatitis. In 1973 he was given contaminated blood during a tooth extraction operation and from what he told me he was given some sort of blood product to the stop the bleeding and was given something that clearly gave him hepatitis C (HCV). There were no other hospitalisation or significant events after that which I can recall.

7. As mentioned, in 1973 he was admitted to Sheffield Hallamshire Hospital for what we thought would be a routine procedure to have his teeth removed, but we knew due to his condition that there were risks attached with bleeding. The procedure went well, but unknown to the family, he had received contaminated blood products. A short while after coming out of

hospital, he became unwell and he was diagnosed with hepatitis by his GP.

8. At the time, our father was working as a male nurse at St John's psychiatric health hospital, but due to his illness and not feeling well enough, he never returned to work and he never worked again after that.

9. This had a devastating effect on the family with dad not being able to work, especially for my mum who had to find herself numerous part time jobs which she had to fit around looking after the family and it was hard for her to make ends meet. At the time of his illness he had 5 young sons, I was 16 years old, Stephen was aged 17, Christopher aged 11, John aged 9 and Dominic aged 6.

10. Over the next few years they contacted a solicitor, a Mr Gilbert Blades, to see if they could get some compensation, however they were told by him at the time, that they would not get anywhere against the National Health Service.

11. Over the years our father started to drink and smoke more, and often felt that he was a failure to his family for not providing a better life for us.

12. He became really ill again and was not able to eat properly, and in 1987 he was diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus, which they said was likely caused by his drinking and smoking. They operated on him, only to find the cancer had spread and was terminal, resulting in his passing on the 26 August 1988.

13. We requested his medical notes form his GP and the Sheffield Hallam Hospital but because time had elapsed they had all been destroyed.

14. I am unable to recall if he was given any treatment for his haemophilia, however, after his tooth extraction, there was a 100 percent change in his physical health. He went from a guy who was cycling to work up hills to St John's hospital to not being able to cycle again. When he was infected

with HCV he lost all of his energy and seemed to fail physically. what I remember when he came back from the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, was how frail he looked.

15. He suffered muscle ache, brain fog along with the majority of symptoms suffered by those with HCV. I distinctly remember his lack of energy as he had been a fit man who suddenly degenerated. This was when I was 16 years old so I remember it vividly. He had loved going out cycling and would often go into the countryside on his bike but he had no energy to do this anymore. He never worked again after coming out of Sheffield Hospital.

16. It had the biggest effect on my mum. She had 5 lads still at home. My elder brother and I were working but not earning fantastic money, so mum had to get numerous part time jobs to make ends meet. We never had anything anyway in terms of money, as we were brought up in a Council house so this made it harder.

17. He was formally diagnosed with HCV by his GP, I don't remember what treatment he was receiving at the time. With being a teenager, and working full time it was not easy to remember family affairs.

18. His GP, Dr Bhanja at the Monks Road Surgery, Lincoln, told him that he had contracted HCV but I couldn't say how soon after having his teeth extracted that he was told. He identified the source of infection as the blood or blood products that dad was given during the tooth extraction. Dr Bhanja has since retired.

19. I have a recollection of my Dad being jaundiced. Dad became yellow and the whites of his eyes were yellow. I cannot recall how long after the operation that was, but I do remember that happening.

20. He started drinking and he was getting most of the money off his mother at the time as he was no longer able to work. He was drinking and smoking, but he never took drugs. After being infected with HCV he was

not able to work again for the rest of his life and this had a devastating effect on him and the family.

21. I don't know if my father's HCV was ever cleared. His cancer was diagnosed in 1987 and his death certificate records the cause of death as 1a carcinomatosis; 1b carcinoma of oesophagus. They did try to operate for the cancer of the oesophagus but the cancer had spread and he died on 26 August 1988 at St Barnabas Hospice, Lincoln.

22. I don't know if he developed cirrhosis of the liver but I believe that the HCV must have had some effect on his liver. At the weekends he would drink, he would go and see his mum and dad, who both lived into their 90s and some nights he would come home worse for wear. It was his way of coping.

23. One of his regrets was that he couldn't provide for his family. He suffered from depression and I know that he had problems sleeping and was prescribed sleeping pills. All of his care was under Dr Bhanja who was pretty supportive and a pretty good doctor.

24. My father was 64 years old when he passed away. He was only at the hospice for a few months receiving end of life care before his death. I have just overtaken the age at which he died, as I am 65 and you realise it was no age.

25. The only medical information I was able to obtain was from the National Haemophilia Database which stated that he received Cryoprecipitate. The print outs record the tests he had for hepatitis showing a positive result and it appears that he was tested for HIV but no result is showing.

Section 3. Other Infections:

26. I am not able to say whether my father received any other infection or infections from being given contaminated blood or blood products, other than HCV because we were not able to obtain his medical records.

27. However, as mentioned I received a patient test print out from the National Haemophilia Database which appears to show that he was tested for both HCV and HIV.

Section 4. Consent

28. I don't know if the issue of consent was ever raised with regards to the blood or blood products he was given. However, because of the situation with his haemophilia he probably didn't have much option, it may well have been a case of, take this or you die.

29. I am also unable to comment as to whether he gave consent regarding any testing for HCV or HIV, the National Haemophilia Database shows the tests he had for HCV and HIV but I cannot comment as to whether he knew he was being tested at the time.

30. Neither I am not in a position to be able to comment on whether my father gave consent with regards to the use of blood or blood products in relation to the tooth extraction operation he underwent.

Section 5. Impact

31. The biggest impact it had on the family was when my Dad couldn't work anymore. My parents had to try and get their finances sorted to look after the 3 younger children. Mum had to go out to work and she had numerous part time jobs to fit around the family and it was hard to make ends meet. Mum undertook cleaning, house cleaning, pub cleaning and she had 2 to 3 jobs. After the younger children were raised and left home mum became a care home worker and would often entertain the residents with her singing. I would have thought that my father would probably have been getting some help from Social Services but they never told us a great deal.

32. Dad used to like going on cycle rides and he always had a seat on his cycle and when the kids were younger he would sit them on a seat on the crossbar. He would often go cycling in to the country side which was near where we lived, but of course that all went by the way when he became ill, so this had an effect on my youngest brother.

33. The effect of my father's illness was greater on my three youngest siblings. I don't think it effected their education as Mum always ensured they were at school and none of them stayed at home. The biggest effect for them was that we used to go once a year for a holiday locally at the coast but after he became ill, then the holidays stopped completely.

34. My father's illness and death affected my mother somewhat mentally. Mum and Dad never had anything to start with then so it was even worse when they found themselves in this situation when he became infected, with Dad not working and Mum having to look after everyone. I know that she would forgo meals to ensure her family were fed, maybe not an entire meal but certainly she had reduced meals.

35. Me and my elder brother were helping finance the family. I was getting about £8.00 a week at the time and was giving my mum £5.00. At the time I worked at Citibank, I started as a storeman and then I became a printer. I was given the opportunity to move to London when they shut everything up here in Lincoln, but I declined not wanting to leave the family.

36. During the time of my father's illness with HCV, the 'Right to buy' council house scheme came about and there was a chance that they could have got their council house for a cheap price, however, they were unable to due to their financial situation, so this opportunity was taken away from them because my dad couldn't get a mortgage because of his condition.

37. There was considerable deterioration in his health and he was never the same person ever again. We had a fairly big garden at the time and he

would come in exhausted, even when he went out in the garden to cut the grass.

38. My dad became really ill again and was not able to eat properly and he died on 26 August 1988.

39. The psychological impact of losing my father was not good at the time. At that time, being so young, you think that 64 years of age is a good age, but when you get there yourself, you realise that it is nothing and no age. We had to support my mum which resulted in me being the main carer for her. I took early retirement from work when I was 50 so I ended up caring for my mum during her early dementia. I saw here every day and did her shopping and washing up until it became too personal for me to look after her and I was unable to do it anymore as she needed more care.

Stigma

40. The knowledge that dad had HCV was contained within the family but I am not sure if this was because of stigma. My Dad's parents and his brothers and sisters knew. Mum and Dad didn't have a lot of visitors generally as my Dad was a bit of a work and home bird type. They would speak to the neighbours outside but no one really came to the house. Mum would go out independently to do the shopping and things like that, but that was basically it. I can't recall them ever going out socialising at the pub, I just didn't see any of that.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

41. Dad never had any counselling with regards to his HCV infection and I am not sure if he was ever offered counselling, but with regard to taking it, I think he probably would have, but I can't be sure.

42. My mother was not offered any support in those terms when my father died, and neither was I, or any of my brothers and sisters ever offered any counselling or psychological support.

43. When his GP, Dr Bhanja, gave him the diagnosis of HCV, I don't know if he was given any advice but I assume he must have been? As younger kids then, they probably wouldn't have shared that information with us. However, I remember that we never used anything Dad used, such as razors or toothbrushes.

44. It is possible that my dad may have received some treatment for his HCV, but I am unable to say exactly what treatment he was given by his GP. However, I do have a recollection of him maybe injecting himself, but I can't be 100% sure. The annoying part is that his medical history has gone.

45. I am unable to recall whether he received any treatment for his haemophilia and prior to the tooth extractions in 1973 he never had a bleed that would have put him into that situation, however, he had to go to the hospital every so often for certain tests.

46. As previously mentioned, all of his care was under Dr Bhanja who was pretty supportive and a pretty good doctor.

47. In regard to Dad's dental treatment, I cannot recall him visiting a normal dentist for any treatment due to the fact he was an haemophiliac. I do recall that Dad's teeth were not the best and he was referred to Lincoln county hospital where he was told that he would have to have them all extracted and was referred to the Sheffield Hallamshire Hospital where unfortunately he received contaminated blood products. Dad did eventually have false teeth fitted.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

48. As previously mentioned, my parents did contact solicitors for compensation but they were told at the time they wouldn't get anywhere with the NHS. Over the next 20 years there was mention of compensation in the media and news about contaminated blood and it became a big

topic of debate in the media and the courts, with the courts recommending compensation pay-outs.

49. No one told us about the possibility of financial assistance at the time and I think that we should have been told about the Skipton Fund earlier. No one at the hospital volunteered the information and we didn't find out about the possibility of financial assistance from the Haemophilia Society. At this time our family was in touch with a nurse who my family knew from the church. She happened to work at the Haematology Department at Lincoln County Hospital and she told us about the Skipton Fund. If she had not told us about it we would never have known because nobody made the family aware. Unless we'd have heard about it in the media by chance, we would never have known if it wasn't for that nurse.

50. The nurse helped complete the application form and mum submitted it, but it was declined in either 2010 or early 2011 because there was not enough information as we could not prove our father's hepatitis status. I didn't know the first thing about it and I didn't know what was in the form as it wasn't down to me, so when it was declined I thought to myself that if I don't do something my mum is going to get nothing. If mum didn't have me to pursue it on her behalf, as she was in the early stages of losing her memory, she would have got nothing. I thought how can they decline something which I know is true?

51. I tried to obtain Dad's medical records from Sheffield Hallamshire Hospital but without success. I sent an email to the Sheffield Hallamshire Hospital on 7 July 2011 and I received an email response from Sheffield Hallamshire Hospital dated 28 July 2011 from the Health Records Section Manager, Janet Wilson, stating that none of his records had been found as they had been legally destroyed after 8 years. They informed me that although they held some records for that period, the majority were destroyed. We also applied for my father's medical records from his GP surgery but we were told they had all been destroyed. **WITN5409002**

52. The Records Section Manager wrote, "Unfortunately, after an extensive search we have not been able to locate any records for your late father. The legal requirement for saving these records is 8 years form the date of the patient's last attendance and although we do still hold some records from that period the majority will have been destroyed." I provide this letter to the Inquiry as Exhibit **WITN5409002**.

53. I am not sure how it came about but I was referred to the Haemophilia Society. I had quite a few conversations with Georgie Robinson from the National Haemophilia Society who told me that Dad was on the National Haemophilia Society database and that this was sufficient evidence. I requested the relevant extract from the National Haemophilia Database for which I had to pay £10.00 and I received a letter dated 23 June 2011 from Gerry Dolan, Chairman of the UKHDCO Data Management Group, National Haemophilia Database, acknowledging the payment and enclosing relevant printouts regarding dad's treatment. **WITN5409003**

54. Information contained on the National Haemophilia Database printout dated 23 June 2011, titled 'Patient annual treatment record', states that my father suffered from mild haemophilia. It is also recorded that he received Cryoprecipitate in 1982 at Lincoln Hospital and Profilate in 1988 at Nottingham. Further information from the Haemophilia database references various tests under the separate headings 'patient HCV data' and 'patient HIV data' and it would appear that tests for HCV and HIV were carried out. The print out provided by the National Haemophilia Database records under the heading Patient HCV data states, 'YES' under the heading 'jaundiced/asymptomatic/hepatitis type' for a test taken at Lincoln Hospital on 23 June 1982 and showing the treatment to be Cryoprecipitate. As shown on the HIV patient data printout, further samples were taken on 12 December 1985; the form being completed on 02 July 1986, and a further sample taken on 26 November 1986; the form was completed on 20 October 1987; both of these tests were at Lincoln Hospital. **WITN5409004**; **WITN5409005**; **WITN5409006**

55. I wrote a letter dated 29 July 2011 containing fresh information to Nicholas Fish, the Scheme Administrator at the Skipton Fund referring to the details of the routine operation he underwent at Sheffield Hallam Hospital and where he received blood products for his haemophilia, stating the great probability that he was contaminated at the hospital and also confirming that I had been informed that his medical records had been destroyed. **WITN5409007**

56. I submitted this fresh information to the Skipton Fund. I even had to ring up to find out how the claim was going as quite a time had gone by. I spoke to Nicholas Fish and he told me that it had been granted but he never mentioned anything else.

57. This resulted in our mother, Serena, eventually being offered £20,000, which she accepted but it was nothing for all the years he had suffered and if they had given us a 100k it wouldn't have been anything towards what it caused. There was no mention of any further payment. If my father had lived he would have been receiving monthly payments which would have made things easier for my mother. He was a young man really at 64 years of age when he died.

58. My mother received the 20k but the irony of this was that it was too little too late, as by that time our mother was diagnosed with dementia, resulting in her eventually going into a care home where she passed away in March 2020. My mother died with 20k still in the bank untouched, and that is the irony of it. It paid for her funeral and the rest was divided between her 5 sons. She never benefitted from the money because she went into care and they couldn't take it for her care home as they weren't allowed to.

59. Through the years the family has been affected, it affected my mum more, but it affected all of us in the way of our living. This is only a small extract of the true effect this had on our family.

Section 8. Other Issues

60. I would like to know who was testing the blood going into blood banks and who was allowing it to happen? Nowadays it wouldn't happen or you would like to hope that it wouldn't happen.

Statement of Truth

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

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated: 11-01-2022

Exhibits:

Exhibit	Description	Date
WITN5409002	Email from to Janet Wilson, Health Records Manager, Sheffield	28 July 2011
WITN5409003	Letter from Gerry Dolan, Chairman of the UKHDCO Data Management Group, National Haemophilia Database to M Dolan	23 June 2011
WITN5409004	National Haemophilia Database record – Patient annual treatment record	23 June 2011

WITN5409005	National Patient Hep C data	23 June 2011
WITN5409006	Patient HIV data	23 June 2011
WITN5409007	Letter from M. Doran to N. Fish, Skipton Fund	29 July 2011