

Witness Name: D C B Slater

Statement No: WITN1709001

Exhibits:0

Dated: January 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

---

### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID CHRISTOPHER BENNETT SLATER

---

I, David Christopher Bennett Slater, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is David Christopher Bennett Slater. My date of birth is GRO-C 1987 and I live at GRO-C Devon GRO-C I am married but currently separated.
2. I make this statement in relation to my father, Edward David Slater, who was born on GRO-C 1948 and died on 13 August 1994 after he was infected with HIV following treatment with Factor VIII concentrate.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records. I have been told by his GP surgery that they have no records for him.
4. My mother, Mavis Slater, has also given a witness statement to the Inquiry under WITN1710001.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

5. My father was had severe Haemophilia A and was infected with HIV following treatment with contaminated Factor VIII concentrate. My mother believes that he was infected following a knee bleed after he hit his knee in the garden. She called an ambulance and he was injected with Factor VIII which she had in the fridge. He was then taken to the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton where he was given further Factor VIII concentrate intravenously. Mum tells me she thinks this happened in the summer of 1984.
6. Sometime later he was called by the hospital when he was at work and told that he had contracted HIV as a result of his Factor VIII treatment. I think this is a disgusting way to communicate such devastating news. He should have been called into the hospital and spoken to face to face.
7. I was not told about Dad's illness until after he died. Mum told me that they were not given any advice about the risk of being exposed to infection in blood products.
8. My parents were not provided with any information about the infection let alone adequate information. They should have been fully advised of any risks before Dad was treated with Factor VIII and certainly before they allowed home treatment.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

9. I do not know if Dad was exposed to any other infections.

## **Section 4. Consent**

10. I believe that Dad was tested without his knowledge and consent. I do not know whether he was tested for research purposes.

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

11. My parents were both devastated by Dad's diagnosis and worried sick about the family business, their finances and the future.
12. Dad's life became all about continual blood tests, looking at T cell counts and trying to work out how to live with a death sentence hanging over him.
13. I grew up in a house full of arguments. My father would scream and shout at me if I ever went near his handkerchief (it normally had blood on it). I was shouted at if I went into the fridge when his medicine was there. I always knew something was wrong and couldn't understand why my parents slept in separate rooms.
14. I struggled at school and was unfocused, unhappy and didn't know why I felt different to everyone else. I left school early, missing out on some of my exams. I planned to become a Paramedic as I had been training with the St John's Ambulance but the pain of Dad's death and forced silence about his condition when I found out the truth about it led me away from that.
15. I was deeply affected during the time he was alive. My life went very wrong after he died and I was told the truth about his illness. I fell into GRO-C  
alcohol addiction. GRO-C  
GRO-C
16. I was told that I couldn't ever tell anyone the truth about Dad's death and, as a family, we did not talk about it through fear of being attacked.
17. It is only now, as a result of the Inquiry, that I am finding out now how my mother was affected by it all.

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

18. Neither my Mum nor I were offered any counselling.

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

19. I do not know what, if any, financial support my parents received. I have never received any financial support from the Trusts/Funds.

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

20. None.

### **Anonymity**

21. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

22. I am happy to give oral evidence at the Inquiry if required.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed..... GRO-C .....

Dated 14/01/19