Witness Name: Peter Roddie
Statement No.: WITN2256001
Exhibits: None
Dated: 23rd July 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PETER RODDIE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 15th May 2020.

I, Peter Roddie, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Peter Patterson Roddie. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1952 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I have been married to my wife Elizabeth Roddie since 1974. I have two step-sons and one son. I retired in 2009 and worked as a taxi driver for nine years before my retirement. I intend to speak about my experience of becoming infected with hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment received and the impact it had on my family and our lives together.

2. I do not wish to remain anonymous for this statement.

Section 2. How Infected

3. I was infected with hepatitis C through a number of blood transfusions and platelets I received in relation to treatment for Hodgkin's disease between September 1987 and September 1988. I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease sometime in the spring of 1987 and began a course of radiotherapy and chemotherapy in September 1987 that lasted for around a year. During this year, I would receive chemotherapy treatment at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, two Wednesdays a month. The blood transfusions and platelets were necessary for me to recover properly from the chemotherapy treatment. Between September 1987 and September 1988 I received multiple blood transfusions and platelets as part of my treatment, so I cannot say which of these transfusions, caused my infection.

4. I was not provided with any information about the risk of contracting an infection from the blood I received beforehand.

5. I was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2003, I cannot recall the exact date. Just before my diagnosis I had been for a regular blood test at my GP based at Govan Health Centre. Dr Masterson, my GP, asked me to come in because something had been found in my blood work. When I went in to the surgery for my appointment, she told me that I had hepatitis C. Dr Masterson also asked my wife to come in for testing immediately and luckily that test came back negative.

6. I cannot really remember if any information about the infection was given to me at that appointment. All I remember, was that I was referred on to the Southern General to discuss treatment.

7. As I can't recall if any information was given to me about the infection, I cannot comment on if the information was sufficient to understand or manage it.

8. I had the infection for over fifteen years before I was diagnosed. I feel that it is something that should have been identified earlier than 2003.

9. Even though I didn't receive any real information about the infection at my diagnosis, Dr Masterson was very good with me. She took the time to properly break the news of my infection to me and I appreciated that.

10. I cannot remember if I was given any information about cross infection at that appointment but my wife was tested fairly soon after my diagnosis, so they must have said something to me about cross infection, but I cannot say what.

Section 3. Other Infections

11. I am not aware of having contracted any other infection from receiving the infected blood.

Section 4. Consent

12. I could not say for sure whether I was ever treated or tested without my knowledge or consent.

13. I do not believe I have ever been treated or tested without being given full information about the procedure beforehand.

14. I don't think I have ever been treated or tested for research.

Section 5. Impact

15. With my infection, I took the stance that I had it and I just had to deal with it, so I don't really know if the infection had a particularly big impact on me mentally. I wasn't happy about having to wait fifteen years to be told I had the infection, but that was the only bad thing for me mentally. I had the infection and that was that. I didn't see the point in being in a bad mood about it.

16. I did not develop any physical symptoms from the infection. It felt like I almost didn't have it all at times, the infection didn't have any noticeable effect on me really.

17. I have not developed any further medical complications or conditions because of the infection.

18. My first treatment for hepatitis C was fairly soon after my diagnosis, so I would say it was sometime in 2003. I received this treatment through the Southern General. I was treated by Dr Morris, who was in charge of all my treatments for hepatitis C. My first treatment was a combination of Interferon and Ribavirin. I received this treatment for around a year in total but it was unsuccessful after twelve months, so I had to take a break from it before I could receive any further course of treatment. I was not told why these treatments had been unsuccessful. I received this treatment initially for three months and had a blood test at the end of the three months that showed the virus had been cleared. I then had a confirmatory test three months later that showed the infection had returned, so I began another three months of treatment. After this second three months of treatment I had another blood test that showed the treatment had been unsuccessful again and so I began a third three month treatment. I had a blood test at the end of the third round of treatment and this indicated that the treatment had also been unsuccessful.

19. My second treatment was another twelve months of Interferon and Ribavirin after I was able to have a few months break after the first treatment. I could not say exactly when I began my second treatment. I also received this through the Southern General. I had to stop this treatment and it was not successful. I had a heart attack during my second treatment and I believe that was because this treatment was interfering with the heart medication I was taking at the time. It was my decision to stop the treatment. .

20. The third treatment was a three month course of Harvoni from the Southern General again and this was successful. I was tested after the three month course and was told I had cleared the virus. I cannot remember when I started this treatment but I now have been clear of the virus for about five or six years so I would have undergone it around 2014 or 2015.

21. The only difficulty I had in accessing treatment was with my third treatment, Harvoni. When it first became available, the NHS weren't allowing people with genotype three, like myself, to receive the treatment. It felt as though they were saying I wasn't ill enough to have the new treatment. I know that there were people who had contracted hepatitis C through their own lifestyle choices that were receiving this treatment before me. I had contracted the infection through no fault of my own but I wasn't allowed to have it. I thought that was disgraceful. I was told that I would have to wait until the treatment was made available to people with genotype three. I would ask about receiving the treatment every time I had an appointment, but I think I had to wait for around two years before I was given access to it.

22. I would not say that any of my treatments have had any great impact on me mentally. I didn't really let the infection bother me. I didn't see the point in letting myself get down or depressed during the treatments, I just had to keep going.

23. I don't remember having any physical side effects from any of my treatments.

24. My infected status has not had any impact on my treatment for anything else, medical or dental.

25. I think my wife was more upset about my infection than I was, I know she worried a lot and so did my sons. That was the main impact on our lives at home, the worry that everybody felt for me. They all managed to come to terms with it though, it took a wee while but they were all fine in the end.

26. GRO-C GRO-C. I believe this has been caused by the stress of having the infection and it has affected our relationship significantly over the years.

27. The infection didn't have any effect on my social life.

28. My family has never has never suffered from any of the stigma associated with this hepatitis C diagnosis. My infection wasn't something we ever talked about with anyone and it wasn't a point of shame for us either.

29. The infection did not have any effect on my professional life and neither did the treatments. I was able to continue working through both.

Section 6. Treatment, Care and Support

30. The only obstacle I have experienced, was when the NHS decided Harvoni would not be given to people with genotype three hepatitis C, like myself. It felt like they were picking and choosing who was going to get help and that wasn't right. People who have been infected via transfusion or by receiving blood products should be given any kind of treatment first, because our infections were not our fault.

31. I can't really remember if counselling or psychological support has ever been made available to me, but I would probably have said no if it was ever offered to me. It is not the sort of thing I would have wanted.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

32. I received £20,000 from the Skipton Fund in 2004. It was my GP that told me about the Fund, I think that would have been at the end of 2003 he told me about it. I phoned the Skipton Fund and they sent out the applications forms to me. There was a part for me to fill out and a part for my doctor, Dr Campbell at the Southern General to fill out. The issue I had with my application came from the section that Dr Campbell had to fill out. He filled out his section of my application and I sent that off to the Skipton Fund, my application was rejected however and they said I would not be entitled to anything. This was because Dr Campbell had said in his section that I had not been infected with infected blood. I didn't really know what to do after that but sometime after this, maybe a few weeks later, I was having a routine appointment with my locum GP, I cannot remember his name. I explained what had happened with Dr Campbell

and my Locum said that wasn't right. He said he would look into it and managed to find out that the platelets I had received during my treatment for Hodgkin's disease were the most likely place for my infection to have come from. I do not know how he found that information. I got in contact with Skipton with this information and they said I had to have Dr Campbell amend the section of the application, as they could not sent me out another application form. When I went to see Dr Campbell, I told him this new information and he amended my application. GRO-D GRO-D GRO-D Once this section had been amended and sent off, my application went through and was successful.

33. I received £30,000 from SIBSS around three or four years ago. I also receive £525 a month from SIBSS now, these payments started around three years ago. The fund wrote to me when they were set up and sent out an application form to me. I think because they took over from the Skipton Fund, they must have already had my information. The application was a self-assessment form where I had to indicate how badly I had been affected by hepatitis C on a scale and then I had to write something about how it had affected my life. I didn't have any issues applying to the fund, it was very straightforward.

Section 8. Other Issues

34. The one thing that still bothers me is that the blood test I had that discovered the infection, was taken by chance. If I had not gone for that blood test that day, I still might not have known that I had the infection. I have no idea whether anyone would have ever got in touch with me about the infection if I hadn't had that blood test. I had the infection for fifteen years before anyone found it, I can't understand why it took that long.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed Peter Roddie (Jul 27, 2020 16:03 GMT+1)

Dated Jul 27, 2020

Peter Roddie statement for signature

Final Audit Report 2020-07-27

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