

Witness Name: Kristina Raine

Statement No: WITN3340001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KRISTINA RAINE

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 17 July 2020.

I, Kristina Raine, will say as follows: -

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Kristina Raine. I like to be called Krissy. My date of birth is GRO-C 1976. I am 44. I live in GRO-C. I work for the RSPCA as an Inspector. I have been an Inspector since 2011. I am currently single. I have a 26-year-old son named Kyle who lives with me. I'm going to be a Nan this year.
2. I am being supported today by my mum, Sue Pinkney whose date of birth is GRO-C 1952. Her address is GRO-C,

GRO-C

Mum will also help fill in some of the gaps in dad's life that I have no or very little knowledge about.

3. I have four siblings; an older brother Leon who is 46 and lives in GRO-C two half-brothers Mark and Matthew from my dad's marriage to Helen, and a half-sister, Jasmine who is 27 from dad's other relationship. I also have another step mum called Shirley.
4. I intend to discuss my dad, Thomas William Raine who was infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) following a blood transfusion after a road-traffic accident in 1973. In addition, I intend to discuss how this affected him, myself and our family.
5. I can confirm that I have chosen not to have legal representation and that the Inquiry Investigator has explained the anonymity process to me. My family and I are not seeking anonymity.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

6. My dad was born on GRO-C 1951. He later became a very successful sculptor. My mum tells me that she and my dad started dating in 1973. She was living in GRO-C but at the time he worked in London undertaking demolition work, so he would come up to see her for the weekends.

7. In the summer of that year, he and his friends were on their way back to London from GRO-C when they were involved in a major multi-vehicle accident just outside Barnsley. The van was crushed.
8. The driver and other passenger were killed instantly. Dad was a passenger and asleep at the time. He was told that this saved him. Policemen were checking all the cars when they noticed that he was still alive, they apparently saw him blink.
9. Because he had been in the car for hours, he needed blood to resuscitate him. He suffered a broken leg, a very badly broken ankle, together with chest injuries. He was taken to Barnsley General Hospital where he stayed for a number of weeks. My mum used to get the train to see him in hospital. He was in there for quite a few weeks, before he was transferred to Darlington Memorial hospital. When he was discharged from there he went to live with mum at her parents house in GRO-C
10. According to my mum, he had a lot of metal work in his legs from his accident which caused him pain. However, she didn't notice any other complaints or side effects.
11. Over the years, dad experienced a number of health problems. He was collapsing and losing a lot of weight. He persistently went to see

doctors for years who could not find an answer to what was going on with him. I would accompany him because he was so frail.

12. Dad was tee-total. My mum tells me that after his car accident, he couldn't handle alcohol at all. He would be drunk after a couple of pints. I believe this could have been attributable to the HCV, which was undetected for thirty or so years. Maybe it was his body telling him not to drink because of the infection?
13. My mum recalls how shortly into her marriage with my dad, he became short tempered. They were nevertheless a great couple, albeit very different. He worked as a railway porter and my mum as a nurse. When he got fed up with that, he became a sculptor through Darlington Art Centre. My mum was the main bread winner. He began to have affairs with other women. They were married for 7 years, they then divorced and he went onto marry Helen without telling anyone. He went onto get a job at Lilliput Lane, designing beautiful ornamental cottages.
14. In the early 2000's, he returned to Darlington and continued to suffer from problems with his health. He was finally subjected to further tests where he was diagnosed with HCV. This would have been thirty years after he was initially infected. I think it was his GP that discovered the virus. He was treated at the Darlington Memorial Hospital for his HCV.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

15. My dad did not contract any infection other than HCV as a result of contaminated blood. He consented to be tested for HIV, the result of which was negative.

### **Section 4. Consent**

16. With reference to the car accident, whilst my dad was treated without his knowledge or consent, I am aware that the blood transfusion he was given was necessary to save his life.

### **Section 5. Impact**

17. My dad's infection with HCV had a devastating impact on his life and the lives of his family. He was a colourful character and very intellectual and well-read. He had a successful career as a freelance sculptor in which he travelled the world. People would wonder where he was and he would be in America doing signings for his work. He also enjoyed a house in the country and a nice car. After his diagnosis, he ended up with nothing GRO-C and a lot of health problems, mental as well as physical.

18. In mid 2005/2006, dad began a course of Interferon treatment which he self-injected. If I recall correctly, this lasted for 6 months but it was possibly longer. My memory in relation to this time is very foggy. It wasn't a very nice time and I have blanked a lot of it out.

19. During and after treatment is when I first noticed a significant deterioration in his mental and physical wellbeing. I remember him being extremely unwell, as if he was on chemotherapy. Sometimes he wasn't well enough to leave the house. He was also terrified of dying; It was a dark time.
20. He was frail and aged massively; he was a very old 63-year-old. His skin became sunken and yellow. He has skinny but suffered with oedema. He continued to pass out and lose weight.
21. Sometime after the treatment had been completed, he was told that it had not been successful. Yet it had made his health even worse. That was the end of the world for him. I recall this being a long time after he first began the treatment.
22. He was never the same after treatment. He became severely depressed and socially isolated. He lost touch with the family. At times he would go missing and we wouldn't know whether he was dead or alive.
23. I only maintained contact with him because I was persistent. He was supposed to be taking medication but I'm not sure if he did. He wouldn't even make eye contact. Prior to that, we would watch Game of Thrones together. But then he would stay inside chain smoking with the curtains drawn.

24. He had photos of the family in his house and talked about everyone and how he loved them but he didn't see them anymore. I believe this was because of the shame of his infection [GRO-C]

Moreover, whilst I think certain problematic traits of character were present prior to this, my mum thinks the HCV affected his brain.

25. I am unsure if the hospital provided satisfactory treatment as he wouldn't have been easy patient to look after. He would also never go to the dentist. He would pull his own teeth out or let them go rotten.

26. During his diagnosis and treatment his behaviour was very erratic. He began isolating himself [GRO-C] He did not inject, as he was terrified of needles. He started losing the plot. He sold everything and moved to Portugal.

27

[GRO-C]

28. I had so many crazy times with him in the hospital. He had been admitted for a combination of his HCV [GRO-C] The paramedics were always at the house. On one occasion, I picked him up from the hospital and his face was filthy with the soot [GRO-C] [GRO-C] He subsequently split up with Shirley, the catalyst of which was his erratic behaviour.

29. As a family, everyone was devastated to learn of dad's infection.

Although his relationship with the family was fractious, everyone was upset and thought about how much potential he had, as he was such a talented artistic man.

30. The last bit of work he did was for Arthur Wharton, the first black professional football player. He was decorated in Darlington. One of my dad's friends got him to do the plaque which is all over the world. There is a Netflix documentary about it. He has left behind such a legacy. He also did a plaque in the Lake District dedicated to Usain Bolt. He's done all these wonderful things; his life could have been so different.

31. When dad returned from Portugal, he came up to stay with my son and I. He didn't have money; GRO-C Kyle who was young at the time. As Kyle grew older he became very unforgiving about his grandfathers actions. They did get along but they didn't share a particularly good relationship. He witnessed how my dad affected my life and he found that difficult; he wanted to protect his mum.

32. My mum's current husband, Kevin has been more of a grandad figure to him. Although they have been happily married for 32 years, it was still hard for mum to learn of my dad's infection. She thinks how life could have been so different.



33. In 2010 or 2011, my mum got a phone call to say that he had gone missing from the hospital; he would just walk out in bare feet. This was really bad for the nurses so mum went to see him in Darlington Memorial Hospital. She told him not to abscond as it causes a lot of trouble for a nurse if a patient absconds under his or her watch. I wasn't happy with her seeing him as I didn't think it was her responsibility.

34. From this point until his death in 2015, the real madness began. His life was in absolute chaos. He was mentally ill and would meet me wearing bizarre outfits including cloaks and sunglasses. This even resulted in him being beaten up by a gang of lads on one occasion. I also think he was taken advantage of by the people he knew, especially after he was awarded the Skipton money which I will talk about later.

35. The last few years of his life were horrendous. He continued to sneak out of the hospital. I was in training for the RSPCA at the time in

Sussex.

GRO-C

GRO-C

It

was absolutely wild. His mind was completely gone. I waited for the phone call for years, I knew it was going to happen. Fortunately the RSPCA were very supportive of me.

36. A month prior to his death, he told me that he wanted to go to Barcelona before he died. I thought that was strange as he had never mentioned anything about dying, he was scared of dying.

37. This hit a chord with me and I booked for us to go to Barcelona. He wasn't taking any drugs at this point apart from painkillers. He bought a beautiful suit from House of Fraser. It was probably the most lucid I saw him. We walked the city from one end to the other. We had a lovely time. We saw all of Gaudi's architecture, had a laugh and saw live music. I look back on that trip with very fond memories of my dad.

38. I had a key to his house and would visit him every day after work. I was effectively his carer. He wasn't eating so I brought him food.

39. On 30 May 2015, I went to his house. I could see that his key was in the door so I couldn't get my key in to open it. I told my colleague that he was inside but not answering the door. I knew something was not right.

40. My colleague suggested that we return later to break open the door. When I checked the door I found it was open. My colleague had told me to wait but I went in anyway. The heating was on as he was always freezing cold. His boots were lined up as were his cigarettes. The TV was on. There were no drugs in the house and everything was in order and for Dad, tidy. I knew at that point that something had happened, I had a feeling.

41. I walked around the house. A bath had been run. He was collapsed on the bedroom floor. He must have been getting ready to have a bath. I

had to touch him. I screamed and rang the police who came straight away. I've relived this experience so many times.

42. The police were absolutely amazing. I knew them and they knew my dad because they were at his house quite a lot. Since then I have been diagnosed with PTSD. I am on the road to recovery but am not quite there yet. I discussed this with the investigator before we started the statement.

43. A post-mortem was conducted. I returned with my mum the following day. His death certificate lists opiate toxicity and the presence of cirrhotic liver. They also listed Hepatitis C. (HCV)

44. Dad was an artist, sculptor and jeweller. It was my birthday in the June. When I was sorting out his stuff, I found the most beautiful silver bracelet in a box with my name on it, from a beautiful shop in town. I still have this gift he had purchased for me but never got to actually give me in person.

45. My dad's infection with HCV culminating in his death in 2015, has affected all my siblings, particularly Mark and myself. They didn't have a relationship with him which could have been different if this hadn't happened. I forced myself to have a relationship with him.

46. Whilst he dipped in and out of my life for the last 15 years, we remained very close. He was ill and knew that he was. I don't think you

can walk away from a parent in his circumstances. He appreciated my care but he was very difficult. I miss him so much. I sometimes wish I could visit him at his home.

47. As I have previously mentioned, I have been diagnosed with PTSD, for which I take medication. It was devastating to witness his fall from being so successful to the person who he became. There are other factors that have contributed to my PTSD but finding my dad dead was horrendous. I've tortured myself over his death many times. Sometimes when I'm driving along to work, it just hits me and I have to pull over. But I have to remind myself that it wasn't him, it was a shell.

48. The nightmares have started to creep back. It doesn't stop me working or anything. I do block out things as that whole period of my life was awful. I had a playlist at his funeral and sometimes when I'm at work, I listen to it.

49. Dad was forced to disclose his infection to the family so that we could all get tested, the results of which were negative. I haven't noticed any stigma towards his infection. Growing up, my dad lost one of his friend's to HIV and so we were more familiar and accepting of viruses of this nature. Apart from us, he didn't tell anyone about his HCV. He was withdrawn and socially isolated so he never had to approach this issue.

50. This week I told a couple of work colleagues that I would be providing a statement to the Inquiry. They were understanding. I'm sure it could raise a few questions for some people but I tend to surround myself with like-minded people.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

51. To my knowledge, dad did not have any difficulties obtaining treatment in consequence of him being infected with HCV.

52. He was probably offered some sort of psychological support but I imagine he would have refused.

53. I have received counselling in relation to the circumstances surrounding my father's health and his ultimate death.

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

54. My dad's sister, Aunty Cheryl, was a nurse as well. She was still working as a nurse at the time of dad's diagnosis. She was a big advocate for helping dad even though they didn't see him much. When she heard about his diagnosis, she discussed Skipton with him as she was aware that patients had been given contaminated blood through blood transfusions. She acquired all the forms. She was the main instigator for his Skipton application. My mum said she would help provide a statement. I filled out the forms. We went to his GP. It was accepted straight away. There was no trouble.

55. His application was successful. The fund accepted that he had acquired HCV through a blood transfusion. We did not have to provide medical records. My mum states that there was no record of the transfusion. However, she testified that she knew he had been given blood as it was essential to save his life. I am sure the evidence of this must be stored in an archive somewhere.

56. He was given an initial £20,000 and a stage 2 payment of £60,000, the latter of which I believe was provided due to further tests which revealed that his liver was cirrhotic. He would have attended these appointments with his girlfriend at the time.

57. He was also provided with annual payments. From 1 April 2014, his annual payment was increased by 2.7% so that from 1 April 2014 until 31 March 2015, he was given £14,574. This equated to monthly payments of £1,214.50 or quarterly payments of £3,643.50.

58. Prior to receiving the Skipton money, it was difficult for dad financially. His finances were awful. He was not able to sculpt and so could not earn a living. [REDACTED] GRO-C

[REDACTED] GRO-C At one stage, his pockets were often stuffed with money. As I have said I think people took advantage of him.

59. The Claxton fund also paid for his funeral.

## **Section 8. Other Issues**

60. My mum remembers hearing that people living on the streets in America were donating blood. It never crossed her mind that we would be buying it in the UK. I think it is so unscrupulous.

61. I think that obviously someone needs to be held accountable. When they realised that blood was infected with, amongst other diseases, HIV and HCV, why were people not made aware of this? I understand that in my dad's circumstances, given the choice he would have taken the blood but patients should have been made aware of the risks.

## **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

20/1/21