Witness Name: Sharon Campbell
Statement No.: WITN3445001
Exhibits: **NIL**
Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SHARON CAMPBELL

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 9 August 2019.

I, Sharon Campbell, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Sharon Campbell. My date of birth is GRO-C 1967 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am affected by my late partner's infection with hepatitis C.

2. I intend to speak about my late partner's infection with hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment he received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.

3. My daughter Kirsty Paterson (W3446) is making her own 'affected' statement to the Inquiry.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My late partner Andrew Kenneth Paterson, known as Andy, was born on GRO-C 1959. He died on 11 July 2005.

5. I met Andy around April 1988 on a blind date. Prior to us meeting, Andy had been in the army. I met him after he had completed his time in the army.

6. Andy and I have 3 children together; Kirsty, Katie and Scott. They are all adults. Andy and I were never married. He was married once before he met me. He said that he would never marry again. After Andy became ill we were going to marry, however we never got around to it as he deteriorated quite quickly. I told him not to worry about getting married as marriage was not something that was important to me.

7. During his time in the army, Andy's regiment was the 9/12 Royal Lancers, which is now part of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment. His service number was GRO-C. I'm not sure what his rank was.

8. In around 1982/83, Andy lost his leg in an accident he had in the army. Andy's brother told me that he was initially at a hospital in Germany where they tried to save his leg. At the German hospital, it was initially suggested to amputate the leg, but it was later decided to try and save it instead.

9. He was then sent to Woolwich Military Hospital in the UK, where they decided to amputate his leg as they could not save it. This would have been sometime during 1982/83, I cannot remember the exact date. During the surgery to amputate his leg, he received blood transfusions. I am not sure how many pints of blood he received.

10. Andy did not receive any other blood transfusions before or after he had his leg amputated.

11. As I mentioned previously, by the time I met Andy in 1988, he had completed his time in the army. By the time I met him, his leg had already been amputated, and he was left with just a small stump.

12. He used a suction limb and this caused a lot of abscesses and sores on his leg.

13. Despite his disability, Andy was always a very active and healthy person. He was always going fishing and always had a tan. He wasn't one of those people who stayed indoors. He loved his garden and often worked in the garden.

14. People with disabilities can be very obstinate, and Andy was like this. He built a pergola in our backyard himself and he laid all the flooring in our house on his own. He shuffled around on the floor to lay the flooring and would not let anyone else help him. He was a very determined person.

15. He would not have an electric wheelchair to help him. He would say to us "it's my leg that's missing, not my hands".

16. When Andy left the army, he was retrained to do lead lighting and double glazing. Because of the suction limb, he would get a lot of sores and abscesses. The suction limb would pull on the stump, and pull out bits of shrapnel and bone. There was also wear and tear on his other leg, so double glazing became too much for him to do as a job.

17. In around 1992, Andy went to train as an audio-visual technician at a college for disabled people in Leatherhead. He was determined to pass the course. The college was a residential college. Andy would be at the college during the week, and he would come home on the weekends.

18. While Andy was attending college, he donated blood regularly. I presume that he would have given the blood at a hall or centre somewhere close to the college. I'm not sure of the name of the actual place where he gave blood.

19. Andy had donated blood before he attended the college and before he met me. He had the bronze and silver medals, so he had been giving blood for a while. We also donated blood together. We moved to my current address in around 1995, and we were giving blood together prior to moving there.

20. During his marriage, Andy lived in GRO-C, and I know that he gave blood there. I'm not sure exactly where he gave blood there.

21. In the summer of 1992, while Andy was attending the college, he gave blood one week and when he returned to college the following Monday he received a letter informing him that he had hepatitis C.

22. Upon receiving the letter, Andy phoned me and told me that he had hepatitis C. He told me that he was worried about me and our unborn baby (at this time, I was pregnant with our first child, Kirsty). He said that I needed to contact the GP to get checked.

23. I went to have the hepatitis C blood test. I tested negative. When I went to the hospital, the doctor did not seem to know what hepatitis C was and had to look it up. It felt weird that I went in there and they did not know what hepatitis C was. I don't think they knew or understood enough about it.

24. When I went for the blood test at the hospital, it was a bit overwhelming. I had been to have blood tests before, but this seemed serious because of all of the precautions that the hospital staff took. I thought that I would just go in for a normal blood test and it would just be the normal procedure, but I noticed that they were taking all of these extra precautions such as covering their faces, and not letting anyone else into

the room where I was having the blood test. I didn't realise that it was that serious.

25. I could not donate blood for a long time after I was tested for hepatitis C. I asked if I could start giving blood a few years later and they said no.

26. The doctors told us that Andy probably contracted hepatitis C from the blood transfusion and that it could lay dormant for up to 50 years.

27. After Andy found out that he had hepatitis C, we went to a hospital in London, I think it was called the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

28. I do not believe that we were given adequate information to help us understand and manage the hepatitis C infection. We did not receive any advice regarding the risk of cross-contamination or infecting others from the doctors. I was told to go and get checked out because I was pregnant at the time, however, as I mentioned previously, when I went to have my blood test the doctor had to look up hepatitis C. No one really talked to us, we were not given any literature or information about the infection.

29. Andy had a liver function test at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and they offered him 6 months of Interferon treatment. The Interferon was in the form of injections. As far as I am aware, the Interferon injections were the only treatment that Andy received for hepatitis C.

30. I am pretty sure that the period during which Andy received the treatment would have been during the mid to late 1990's, before our daughter Katie was born in 2000.

31. Once Andy had finished the 6-month course of Interferon, the doctors at the hospital checked him again and said that the infection seemed to be ok, and that it was lying dormant.

32. They said that we would just have to wait and see how it goes, and that they would do a follow up test in 6 months' time.

33. When Andy was tested again 6 months later the hepatitis infection was still present. He had to go for more liver function tests and he was given nuclear medicine. The liver function tests never showed that Andy had developed cirrhosis.

34. We tried to get on with our everyday lives as if Andy wasn't ill, because in our minds he didn't seem ill, he didn't look ill. He would try to push past it. He just dealt with the hepatitis C the same way that he dealt with his leg, he didn't really say anything about it. Life went on for Andy and he continued to be the active person that he usually was.

35. Around the end of 2004/early 2005 Andy developed cellulitis. I think that it may have been triggered by a cat scratch, however, I am not certain whether it was definitely the cat scratch that triggered it.

36. As a result of the cellulitis, he just started putting on water weight, and from then on, he was in and out of hospital very often.

37. He was first at the Medway Hospital in Gillingham, which wasn't too bad as we could go and see him every day because the hospital was close to us. He would feel better and be allowed home, and then he would have to go back into the hospital because he was unwell again. On one occasion this was on the same day.

38. There was one occasion when the doctor visited our home, he told me off and said that I should have the door closed as Andy was ill, but Andy just wanted fresh air.

39. We would go through so many towels because he'd got so big with water. Water was literally seeping out from every pore and we would have to clean him up. He was mostly sick with complications due to the water weight.

40. There were occasions where I would have to physically feed him. A lot of the time he was not able to tell me what he wanted (for example, if he needed to eat or go to the toilet). It was as though his brain was still working but he could not verbalise what he wanted to say.

41. One time we had to call the ambulance because he was so full of water. He had wet himself and mentally he wasn't with it, and was falling all over the road when he was brought out to the ambulance.

42. The kids just sort of got on with it. It was all part and parcel of "dad's not well". We always talked to them as openly as we could about their dad not being well.

43. Sometimes our neighbour would keep an eye on Andy when I was away from the house. I had Katie who was in nursery school, Scott who was in year 6 and Kirsty was in secondary school, so there was lots going on, and I would have to be there with them at school assemblies and that kind of thing. Andy wanted me to go along to these events so I had to leave him alone, but would have the neighbour watch him as at times he would try to get out of his wheelchair.

44. Andy was eventually transferred to Maidstone Hospital which was more difficult for us to get to as it was in the middle of nowhere. At the hospital he was restricted to only half a litre of water a day due to the water retention problems he was having with the cellulitis.

45. When he was at Maidstone, the kids could not see him as often as they wanted to as it was further away. Two of the kids also decided that they did not want to see him in the hospital and just wanted to wait until he got home.

46. I was not satisfied with the level of care and support provided at Maidstone Hospital. I know that the nurses there were under a lot of strain and pressure, however, I do not think that the care provided was adequate.

47. During the last few days of Andy's life he was at home as he had come out of hospital the weekend before. Kirsty got up one morning to have a shower before going to school, and tried to wake Andy, but thought that he was still asleep as he would not wake up. The other 2 kids were up as well so I told them that their dad was still asleep.

48. We all thought that he was still asleep and it was not until I went to say goodbye to him that I realised that I couldn't wake him. I checked for a pulse and panicked because I could not find one. I called the neighbour and they couldn't find one either. I sent 2 of the kids to school and my neighbour looked after Katie, who was only a 4 years old at the time, in our backyard. I called an ambulance and I was told to put him on to the floor to try to resuscitate him, however I could not do this as he was too heavy, so the operator talked me through giving him CPR on the bed until the paramedics arrived. The police also came around.

49. After Andy passed, my mum and dad came over and dad took me to the school to pick up the other 2 kids. My brothers came over and my sister also came up from Wales.

50. Andy had woken earlier in the morning at 4am and needed to go to the toilet, however he was too heavy and I could not move him so I had to just put something underneath him.

51. After Andy passed away, his body was sent to London for an autopsy before we could have a funeral for him. I remember that his body was sealed inside a bag when it was sent for autopsy and we waited a long time for the autopsy to be performed and to have a funeral. I do not know why this was done. I was also told that we would not be able to have an open casket if we chose to have a burial because his body would have to stay sealed in the bag.

Section 3. Other Infections

52. As far as I am aware, Andy did not receive any other infection from the blood transfusion besides hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

53. I do not believe that Andy was treated or tested without his consent, without being given adequate or full information, or for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

Physical and mental impact of hepatitis C

54. As I mentioned previously, before Andy was diagnosed with hepatitis C he was a very active and healthy person, and loved being outdoors, so we had no reason to think that anything was wrong with him.

55. After his diagnosis, he was healthy for quite a while. He was still very active and enjoyed his outdoor activities such as fishing. We used to go on holidays and things like that, but you could see that he was becoming jaundiced. However, he wouldn't let it beat him. You could see in a family portrait we had when Katie was a baby that his face was getting yellow.

56. Andy dealt with having hepatitis much like he dealt with losing his leg, he just got on with it and didn't really say anything about it.

57. He would try to push past it, he would never say "I feel bad", even with his disability. Because he had no nerve endings, when he took painkillers he would be very out of it, and he would say "I'm off with the fairies". That's the most we got from him.

58. One of the mental impacts of the hepatitis C was that I noticed that Andy began to lose his mind. He wouldn't know what time it was, and when he was in hospital he wouldn't know what medication he had been given. As I mentioned previously, it was as though his brain was still working but he couldn't verbalise what it was that he was thinking. For example, he would have to motion to me that he wanted to eat or go to the toilet, and then I would have to feed him or take him to the bathroom.

59. Physically, he was mostly unwell due to the water weight he gained as a result of the cellulitis. His original weight was around 11 stone and he would have easily put on a couple of stone. His whole body was very swollen and water was just seeping out of him. We would have to change the bedding every day and we would go through so many towels to clean up the mess.

60. He would have difficulty sleeping and would grunt as though he was trying to speak in his sleep.

Physical and mental impact of the treatment

61. Andy told me that he would never have the Interferon treatment again, it was so horrible. He became very ill during the 6 months of treatment, and it was so horrible to see.

62. After the treatment was over, he said that if the infection was to return, and he would have to go through the treatment again, he would choose not to have it.

Impact on family members

63. As I mentioned previously, in the beginning we tried to get on with our everyday lives as though Andy wasn't ill, because in our minds he didn't seem ill, he didn't look ill.

64. The kids got on with it. We always talked to them as openly as we could about their dad being ill.

65. While Andy was unwell, we had planned to take the kids to Disneyland in Paris. We were on benefits but we had saved up for the trip. Andy came home that weekend and said that he felt good and was ready for the holiday. We then spoke with his doctor who said that he was not fit for travel. I remember that Andy cried as he felt as though he had let the kids down.

66. I had already explained to the kids that he was too poorly and they understood. We said we would go when he was feeling better.

67. Andy was brilliant with his kids and he got really upset that he couldn't play football or run around with them because he was unwell. I reassured him that he could still do things with them, such as helping with their homework and reading them stories, and that some dad's never get to see their kids. I told him that I didn't think his kids were missing out, as he was there for them.

68. My daughter Katie went a bit off the rails. She was 4 years old when Andy died. Her dad's death, combined with her grandfather's death later on, really affected her. She had started not wanting to go to school after Andy passed away, and eventually the school put her on a reduced timetable. Then my dad died when she was a little older. After this, I told them that she was not ready to come back to school. The school said that if she was not ready to come back on a reduced timetable then she couldn't go back to the school. The school made comments to the effect of that her father died when she was 4 so she should be over it by now.

69. She went completely off the rails as she got older. I had no control over her, she was not attending school, she got in with the wrong crowd and she was going out all the time.

70. She would be out GRO-C and Kirsty and I would have to go out to try and find her.

71. Katie was in GRO-C school for a while. GRO-C GRO-C She wouldn't go and one time she was so angry that she kicked my windscreen in and broke it.

72. She has turned the corner now and is in a mother and baby unit with her son.

73. I had many problems with my son Scott. He started refusing to go to school just after he commenced secondary school, and his behaviour was bad. GRO-D

74. Originally his behaviour was put down to the bereavement from his father passing away and then his grandfather passing away. However, he was later diagnosed with GRO-C. I feel that I didn't get the support I needed with Scott.

75. Scott dropped out of college and tried a couple of part-time jobs. He ended up in a GRO-C.

76. When Scott was kicking off, Kirsty was going through getting her GCSC's. She would GRO-C because of his behaviour. She ended up GRO-C to get her through her GCSC's.

Stigma

77. Andy and I never decided that we wouldn't tell people outside the family about his infection, it just didn't come up in conversation because we got on with it.

78. We never really experienced any adverse reaction or stigma from anyone around us. All of my family knew because we told them. They were all fine, there were never any problems, we just got on with it.

79. Andy told his dentist about the infection and there wasn't really any adverse reaction he experienced. Only once the dentist said that he could not see Andy until the last appointment that day, but we were ok with this, we just thought that they wanted to take extra precautions.

80. At the time that Andy was diagnosed with hepatitis, I was on maternity leave from the pub that I worked at. I told the landlord at the pub about the infection.

Financial impact

81. I was on income support up until Katie was in year 6 at school. After then I have worked part-time and cared for my children.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

82. As I mentioned previously, I was not happy with the level of care, support and service that Andy received at Maidstone Hospital.

83. I was very unhappy with the lack of communication at the hospital. It was more the fact that we were never told anything about Andy's condition and treatment, other than being informed that he was only allowed to have half a litre of water a day because he was so full of water. This did not seem like much water, and I remember one day sneaking an ice lolly into his hospital room because it was so hot.

84. I know that the nurses at Maidstone were under a lot of strain, nurses always are. On one occasion, the nurses left him for 2 hours in his bed which he had soiled because they did not get around to changing it. Andy could not move so he could not get out of the bed.

85. I remember that Andy wanted to make a written complaint about the care he received at the hospital, that is how strongly he felt about it.

86. The doctors at Maidstone told us that Andy could not be considered for a liver transplant as he was too ill to move. I phoned a London hospital to see whether he could be considered for a transplant, and they told us that they had a bed for Andy. They said that if he was well enough to be moved, physically, and it was just his mind that was failing, then they would accept him. At that point in time, Andy was fine to be moved physically. Maidstone later told us that there were no beds in London.

87. We've had the same GP since we moved to our current address in 1995, and the GP told us that hopefully he would never have another patient who suffered like Andy did, but if he did, he would not put them through Maidstone, he would send them to a London hospital.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

88. Before he died, Andy filled in the forms for the Skipton Fund, but he passed away before he could submit them.

89. After Andy passed away, I sent through a copy of the death certificate and the will and received the payment. My experience was that the Skipton Fund were good.

90. I received an initial payment of £20,000 (for hepatitis C) and then £25,000 (a bereavement payment for Andy's death). Some years later the bereavement payment was increased to £50,000. I received an additional £25,000 because of this, without having to re-apply. I used some of the payment I received to pay for Andy's funeral.

91. I remember that EIBBS also had a payment of £10,000 for spouses. I thought that I could not apply for this as Andy and I were not married. I was not worried about not being married and not being able to have the additional payment.

92. However, Kirsty looked up some information on the payments, and she discovered that the £10,000 payment was for unmarried partners as well as spouses. We applied for the payment and received it recently. We had to provide information to prove that we were together for 17 years.

93. We did not receive any kind of monthly allowance at the time my statement was initially given. However at the time of signing I now recieve at monthly payment from the EIBSSS.

94. We used some of the money from the Skipton fund to go on a trip to Disney world in Florida, as the kids had missed out on going to Paris with Andy when he was alive. Andy's brother said to me 'you've got to try and take the kids". I am going to try and get some of our debts out of the way with the money from the EIBSS.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 19/08/'21