

Witness Name: W J Millard
Statement No: WITN2724001
Exhibits: WITN2724002-3
Dated: February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF WAYNE JUNIOR MILLARD

I, Wayne Junior Millard, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Wayne Junior Millard of [GRO-C] [GRO-C] My date of birth is [GRO-C] 1943. I am happily retired and I have been married to my wonderful wife Brenda for 56 years.
2. I am an affected person in relation to my late father-in-law Douglas Alfred Howton and my late sons Russell Wayne Millard and Robert Paul Millard; all of whom were infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated Factor VIII. Douglas died on 15th June 1989, Russell on 5th October 1990 and Robert on 14th November 2012.
3. **This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to Douglas', Russell's or Robert's full medical records. I confirm that there are a large proportion of medical records which have gone "missing".**

Section 2. How Affected

In relation to Russell:

4. Russell had severe Haemophilia A and received Factor VIII from the age of approximately 18 months until his death. He received treatment at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford and his consultants were Dr Rizza and Dr Matthews.
5. Russell was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated Factor VIII.
6. In or around the mid 1980's, my wife accidentally found out about our son's HIV positive status. She was standing outside his hospital room and overheard one of the consultants, who was briefing a group of trainee doctors, say "*he should be on AZT*", whilst pointing to Russell's room.
7. Ironically, a short time after this, I believe that Russell also found out about his HIV infection by chance. He too overheard a conversation between medical professionals. Following this, Russell told my wife that he was HIV positive, not knowing that she was already aware of this.
8. Sometime after Russell found out about his HIV, he discovered that he had Hepatitis C. Dr Rizza told Russell that he would have to be careful with his liver but rather worryingly he was not given any further information about how to manage Hepatitis C or about the risks of transmission.
9. Russell never received any information in relation to the risks of receiving Factor VIII. After he had been infected, he did not receive any adequate information in relation to how to manage his infections or regarding the risk of transmission.

10. **Exhibit WITN2724003** contains extracts from Russell's medical records which clearly demonstrate that medical staff have redacted copious amounts of information.

In relation to Robert:

11. Robert had mild Haemophilia A and received Factor VIII on an intermittent and "as and when required" basis. He was treated at the Churchill Hospital and his consultants were Dr Rizza and Dr Matthews.

12. Robert was told that he had HIV by Dr Rizza at the Churchill Hospital in the latter part of 1986, GRO-C Robert attended a routine appointment and did not expect to be told this devastating news but to some extent he had suspected that he may have been HIV positive because both his brother (Russell) and grandfather (Douglas) had been infected with HIV.

13. Robert was never given any information about the risks of receiving Factor VIII.

14. I do not know how Robert found out about having been infected with Hepatitis C but I do know that he was told at some point.

15. Robert was not given adequate information about how to manage his infections or regarding the risk of transmission.

In relation to Douglas:

16. My father-in-law had severe Haemophilia A and was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated Factor VIII throughout the later stages of his life. **Exhibit WITN2724002** is a copy of my father-in-law's death certificate which lists the causes of death as pneumocystic pneumonia and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and confirms that he "contracted virus through treatment for Haemophilia".

17. My father-in-law was never given any information or advice regarding the risks of receiving Factor VIII.
18. He received treatment at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford and his consultants were Dr Rizza and Dr Matthews.
19. I do not know when my father-in-law was infected with HIV or Hepatitis C.
20. My mother-in-law opened a letter from the Churchill Hospital which was addressed to my father and was dated in or around November/December 1985. This letter advised that my father-in-law was HIV positive. It also enclosed raffle tickets for purchase.
21. My mother-in-law did not advise my father-in-law about the contents of this letter but she did tell my wife and her 3 siblings and they were asked not to divulge the news to anyone; least of all my father-in-law. My mother-in-law wanted to protect my father-in-law because she knew that he would worry about such a diagnosis.
22. In any event, some months later my father-in-law also found out about his HIV diagnosis purely by chance. He attended his GP to obtain the results of a chest x-ray which had been undertaken following a recent chest infection. The GP said to my father-in-law "*Your chest is clear but you have HIV*". The news was conveyed in a very matter of fact manner. This was a terrible way to find out such devastating news. However, it was likely that the GP thought that my father-in-law was already aware of his diagnosis. My father-in-law returned from this appointment and did not tell my mother-in-law; not realising that she already knew.
23. My father-in-law was not given any information about how to manage the infection and he was not provided with any information regarding the risks of transmission. However, my father-in-law would have carried out his own research regarding what HIV was and how it was going to now shape his life. I recall that from the moment he returned from that GP appointment, he took

up residence in the back bedroom and my mother-in-law and father-in-law slept apart from that time onwards.

24. My father-in-law was also infected with Hepatitis C but he was never told that he had this infection.

Section 3. Other Infections

25. I believe that my father-in-law and my sons were definitely put at risk of vCJD and I believe that they all developed vCJD and I set out below why I believe this.

26. In relation to my father-in-law, I distinctly remember that his coordination deteriorated towards the latter stages of his life. Sometimes he would "read" the newspaper upside down.

27. In relation to Russell, I vividly recall that he moved like a 'rag doll'. On the Sunday before he passed away, my wife telephoned her sister, Julie Scott, asking her to come and help her look after Russell whilst they were waiting for ambulance to take him into hospital.

28. Russell's death certificate records that he passed away due to encephalopathy and this further persuades me to think that he definitely had vCJD.

29. In relation to Robert, I vividly recall that he walked as though he could not feel the ground under his feet. His walk was both laboured and disjointed. He was also diagnosed with an inflammation of spinal fluids but I believe that this was vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

30. I strongly believe that my father-in-law and sons were all tested and treated without their knowledge and therefore impliedly without their consent.

31. Russell had a test conducted on his "stored blood" after he passed away and I believe that this was a test for Hepatitis C which had clearly been undertaken without his knowledge or consent.

32. During most hospital visits, Mary Fletcher who was a nurse at the Churchill Hospital would take my father-in-law's blood and I believe that his blood was used for the purposes of research.

33. Both Russell and Robert received Hepatitis B vaccines without their knowledge and therefore impliedly without their consent.

Section 5. Impact

34. I got lost in myself. It started out with losing my father-in-law in the June of 1989. Then in the March of 1990, I lost my older brother who lived in the States. I then lost Russell, my mother and then Robert. It was horrific and you could not make it up.

35. In 1991, I was in a kind of a limbo. I started spending a considerable amount of time in the pub. It took me quite a while to figure out what the hell I was doing. I came close to a complete breakdown because I could not talk to anybody about the infections. Every time I spoke about it, I had to be very careful about what I said and it went against the grain with me. I had no choice because of the stigma that went hand in hand with both Haemophilia and HIV. I was, therefore, never able to discuss the true reasons as to why I lost my father-in-law and my precious boys.

36. Time does not heal you; rather you learn how to deal with things and how to overcome matters. I found a focus. I produced a lot of woodwork and I created 15 different types of tables. I got a lot of enjoyment from this and this was my way of occupying myself and getting through life after so much grief.

37. When I was feeling really low, particularly when I was in hospital, my wife committed herself to helping and looking after me; having gone through so much herself already. She was and is a truly remarkable woman.
38. Mentally, I think I have almost come to terms with what my life is now. I cannot change what happened, no more than I can change what is going to happen tomorrow. We take each day as it comes. The way I think is as follows: "*I woke up this morning, so yesterday was a bonus*". I feel fortunate to be alive. I have doubts as to whether I will still be around when the Inquiry reaches a conclusion but I do not dwell on this possibility. I would certainly like to see someone held accountable for so many deaths.
39. I strongly believe that Dr Rizza and Dr Matthews knew what was going on and I cannot categorically say that they implemented it, but I am sure that they knew the blood was contaminated, even when it was ordered. Strangely, they retired within a few weeks of each other.
40. Initially, my wife thought Dr Rizza was the '*bees knees*' and thought really highly of him. At the time, she even wrote a thank you card to him for looking after Russell. However, she certainly does not hold this view today.
41. When we went to Philadelphia in my home country in or around 1973, we were passing "*The Red Cross*" which had signs up stating "*A pint of blood for \$25*". We looked around and we were so shocked at what we saw. The people donating blood were lying all over the ground and some were intoxicated and others were prostitutes. We returned to the UK and my wife told Dr Rizza, extremely forcefully, that she did not want any of the "*American stuff to be treating our boys*". The boys did not have this for a while, but once they got to the age of 16, Dr Rizza said they would have to have whatever was available; including the "*American*" blood. My wife and I were aghast at this thought.
42. My wife and I met when I was a member of a Rock and Roll band; she was a wonderful woman then and still is today. When I was stationed in the US Air Force, my wife was expecting Robert. Once I got to Mexico, I quickly realised

that there wasn't a hospital within miles which could deal with Haemophiliacs. I therefore had to request a transfer to somewhere which was in close proximity to the best hospital care. The Lieutenant shook his head and looked at me and said "*The best place in the world to deal with this is Oxford, England*". He rubber stamped my request for a transfer and it was approved. Four months later, I was back in England. Little did I know that this hospital was going to mark the beginning of the end for my boys.

43. I was a successful man. I made Tech Sergeant and I was the youngest person to achieve that at Alconbury. I stayed in the service for 8 years, 9 months and 23 days. I then got a job with a company from Texas who paid for all of our flights back to the UK. I was earning an extortionate amount of money. My reason for coming back to the UK was to ensure that my sons' could be treated at the best possible hospital. Those little guys were more important to me than my career. If I was to do it all again I would do exactly the same. Those little guys were important to me and they still are.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

44. I recall that my father-in-law was placed in an isolated side room following his bronchoscopy. His body went into shock and he had a seizure. It was lucky that my mother-in-law was with him when this happened because he was almost completely ignored by the medical staff.

45. I also recall my father-in-law being given a very large and extremely tough jacket potato which was covered in mud, when he was in the John Waring Ward at the Churchill Hospital. My father-in-law was so weak at this point he could hardly even pick up a fork, let alone tackle this potato which was certainly not fit for human consumption. My mother-in-law picked up the potato and handed it back to the hospital staff. This was such an upsetting sight.

46. The medical staff were always fully gloved and masked when treating my father-in-law and I also recall him being in a very cold isolation room with broken blinds in the John Waring Ward.

47. My father-in-law had his hearing tested at the Churchill Hospital and the doctor just stuck something very abruptly into his ear, without pre-warning my father-in-law. The way my father-in-law was treated was brutal and horrific. The doctors did not usually want to touch him and when they did, they made sure that it was over and done with very quickly.
48. My father-in-law was refused dental care; no private or NHS dentist was prepared to deal with him and as a result he ended up with a full set of dentures.
49. As far as I am aware, neither my father-in-law nor my sons were offered any counselling or psychiatric support.
50. I have never been offered any counselling or psychiatric support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

51. The Macfarlane Trust decreased my mother-in-law's widow's pension and we challenged this after she received a snotty letter from them. The process was a real pain and I feel that the Macfarlane Trust was a complete waste of time; the staff displayed tones of superiority and were particularly unhelpful.
52. I believe that my father-in-law received grants from the Macfarlane Trust for a washing machine, bed and mattress.
53. My mother-in-law received the Stage 1 lump sum payment of £20,000 from the Skipton Fund but this was after my father-in-law had passed away.
54. I never received a penny from any of the trusts and I was happy to hear that the Macfarlane Trust has now dissolved.
55. My son's wives dealt with their financial affairs so I do not know which or how much financial assistance they received.

Section 8. Other Issues/Conclusion

56. I would like to see a conclusion to this matter and I want somebody to stand up and say "*we were at fault*" and own up to their actions.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

57. I do not wish to apply for anonymity. I would like to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 15 Feb 2019