

Witness Name: LINDEN DAVIES

Statement No: WITN2740001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: OCTOBER 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LINDEN DAVIES

I, Linden Davies, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Linden Davies. I was born on GRO-C 1943 and live at GRO-C
GRO-C, Wales GRO-C.
2. I was infected with the Hepatitis Virus from a transfusion with contaminated blood in June or July 1968.
3. This Witness Statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my medical records.

Section 2. How infected

4. In June or July 1968 (when I was 25 years old) I was involved in a motoring accident and sustained a serious head injury. I had emergency surgery at the Bridgend General Hospital (now known as the Princess of Wales Hospital).

5. I was on a drip when I regained consciousness from the accident and operation. I was told that I had lost a lot of blood and had been transfused with three pints of blood. I was in hospital for quite a while, possibly around one week.
6. Some time after discharge from hospital I went back to work but started to feel very unwell. I worked as a maintenance electrician at a factory. I had to go home from work and was very ill with flu like symptoms. I then developed a severe case of yellow jaundice.
7. I was at that time living with my parents. Our GP, Dr Soper, came out to me for a home visit as I was bed bound. My face was scarred from the motor accident and one of the very first questions Dr Soper asked was 'Did you receive blood (during the operation)?' When I answered 'yes', Dr Soper advised me that he was going to test me for Hepatitis and subsequently confirmed the diagnosis.
8. In terms of risk to others, I was informed that the virus was transferrable to others. I stayed at home for weeks after contracting the virus. I was worried about infecting others for a significant period of time and I isolated myself until I learned how to handle it.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I do not know whether the Hepatitis Virus I had was the Hepatitis B Virus or the Hepatitis C Virus. I was not infected with any other virus than Hepatitis. I am now clear of Hepatitis.

Section 4. Consent

10. I was not in a position to consent to the blood transfusion. I was unconscious and needed emergency surgery.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. I was really very ill. I was off work for several weeks through the illness and subsequently lost my job. I was told not to consume alcohol for a period of 6 months and was actually unable to socialise at all for that period of time.
12. I wanted to donate blood myself some time in the early 1970s but was told that I was unable to do so because of Hepatitis.
13. I do not recall when or how I cleared the virus.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

14. I was never offered counselling and have had no psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

15. I was never able to pursue assistance from the Skipton Fund.
16. I used to attend the Washington Bridge Surgery in Porth. That surgery closed down. My current GP is Dr Thomas of Pont Newydd Medical Centre. Dr Thomas has thus far been unable to identify anything pertaining to Hepatitis other than that I was involved in a car accident in 1968. I am in the process of requesting my medical notes and records from my GP.
17. I have tried to obtain my hospital records on two occasions but was told that they only keep records for six years.

Anonymity

18. I do not wish to remain anonymous and I understand this Statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not wish to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry but would do so if it was required of me.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-C

Dated.....

23/10/2019