

Witness Name: Royal Free Hospital (Debra Anne Pollard)
Statement No. WITN3094001
Date: 7 May 2019

EXHIBIT "WITN3094001/2"

This is the exhibit marked "WITN3094001/1" referred to in the witness statement of Debra Anne Pollard dated 7 May 2019

GRO-C

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Professor Christine Lee
Haemophilia Centre
Royal Free Hospital
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16 September 2000

Dear Professor Lee,

The latest news of the potential transfer of nvCJD via the blood route has quite naturally struck fear into our hearts. Whilst everything we have read so far ends by saying 'no infection has yet been traced to transfer by blood in humans', we have had unfortunately heard too many of these 'nevers' to be reassured. I have also read that it is still thought that the transmitters are in the part of the blood that I understand is removed from Factor VIII. However I am certain that tests will be following where such blood products will also be tested as a route and it may well be found that even so they continue to provide a route for transfer.

We have not yet discussed any of this with Nick as this is his property and if and when he is ready to talk to us, he will do so. He for example recently told us that he had visited you with Olga for discussions on GRO-C. He told us he found it nerve-racking. He had not of course discussed this with us, but came round one evening a few days after he had seen you and opened a conversation with us in which he described the visit in fair detail. Dan and I were impressed with his ability and desire to share such things with us and felt very honoured.

However he has told us recently that he 'does not allow himself to think about the consequences of the things he has' and we therefore must assume that this latest news will be quite terrifying for him.

You said to us last time we spoke of this that 'I am as likely to contract CJD from eating meat as anyone' and we of course agree with this. However on reflection, receiving injections of blood products from a donor who later dies of the disease does bring it much closer and this prospect now almost outdistances the many fears held about both Hepatitis C and haemophilia itself. Is there anything positive you can tell us that might give hope that this will not have been transferred to Nick? Is there anything in the pipeline that might protect him against such a possibility? Not only would be helpful for us to know but also to have up to date information if and when he does discuss it with us.

If only he had been given recombinant when we first asked Dr. Goldman for it, at least this last dreadful fear could have been avoided. As you know Nick has now moved into his own flat which falls under Barnet Council. Is there any likelihood of Barnet being more amenable to paying for Nick to get it now or is the fact that he has already been infected with Hep C etc. a deterrent? There is talk of Barnet being incorporated into Haringey and Enfield Health Authority who as we know will not pay for Nick. Should we therefore be mounting a campaign whilst Barnet is still independent? Do you know the name of the person responsible at the Barnet Health Authority (and their address) to whom I might write directly?

I know that I am asking you play God in all of this, but you are the one with at least the most up to date knowledge and I do very much count on you responding with as much information for us as you can give.

With kind regards,

GRO-C

Della Hirsch