Witness Name: Scott Bradley
Statement No: WITN3653001
Exhibits: WITN3653002
Dated: September 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SCOTT BRADLEY

I, Scott Bradley will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Scott Bradley of GRO-C Rotherham GRO-C. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1965. I am currently single and live with my parents in a shared owned property. In 2012 I retired due to ill health.

2. I was infected with Hepatitis C (Hep C) as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.

3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records.

Section 2. How Infected

4. I cannot recall much of what happened in the past as I have a very hazy memory. Whatever I can remember, I have provided in the account of below.

5. In 1965, I was born with club foot. Six months later, I had a foot operation after which the nurses tried to put a plaster on my foot but it would not stop bleeding. After further investigation and a blood test, I was diagnosed with severe Haemophilia A. I developed inhibitors when I was a child.

6. When I was diagnosed with haemophilia A, the treatment at the time wasn't good and I was left untreated most of the time. As a result I now I have damaged joints.

7. When I was treated for my haemophilia, I didn't really take much notice of the treatment I received. Only certain names ring a bell such as Cryoprecipitate, Factor VIII (FVIII), Porcine and blood transfusions. In or about the mid 2019, I received my UKHCDO records which I have exhibited at **'WITN3653002'**. These provides details of the blood products that I received.

8. I believe that I first received treatment for my Haemophilia at Sheffield Children's Hospital (SCH) when I was under the care of Professor Blackburn and then Dr Lilleyman. The UKHCDO records confirm this. When I turned 15, my care was transferred to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital (RHH). Initially, I was under the care of Professor Preston. Currently I am under the care of Professor Michael Makris. I have seen other consultants as well, but I do not recall their names.

9. I do not know the dates on which, which I was given infected blood products. I recall that I was on home treatment when I was in my twenties. This was difficult to obtain as, because I had inhibitors, the hospital was unsure about how much treatment they should give me. They did not know the level of risk that was involved in terms of clotting.

10. My parents know less about infected blood than I do, so they do not recall any information being provided beforehand about the risk of being exposed to infections from the blood products.

11. As stated above, as a result of receiving FVIII, I was infected with Hep C. I cannot recall the circumstances in which I was informed, but it is possible that I was told in the late 1980s. If I was told at a routine appointment, it would have been extremely shocking and significant so I would remember it. I believe that I was told in passing whilst admitted in hospital for a bleed when I was not very aware of my surroundings. In fact, it may not have been vocalised and I may have noticed a mention of Hep C on a note or sticker. I never received a letter confirming the diagnosis.

12. As I do not recall going to a meeting to discuss the infection, no information or advice was provided to me about Hep C.

13. In the mid 1990s, the media released broadcasts and advertisements on HIV and Hep C. This was when I gained a clearer knowledge and understanding of the infection. I got very worried about myself. I attended a routine appointment at the RHH and knew beforehand what I wanted to discuss. I raised my concerns with the doctor about having seen people die from the infections on the news. The doctor didn't respond much and told me that I should only concentrate on my haemophilia. He said I should not worry about the Hep C. For this reason, I never pressed for more information and forgot about the infection.

14. I do not believe that adequate information was provided to help me understand and manage the infection. I have never been given any information about the severity of Hep C and only realised how dangerous the condition was when I was offered treatment to clear the virus.

15. Information should have been provided to me earlier. My diagnosis should have been provided to me in writing and, as a bare minimum, a meeting should have been arranged to discuss it further. Somebody should have prepared me for the future instead of leaving me to conduct my own research. That way I could have managed my expectations.

16. No information was given about the risks of others being infected as a result of the infection.

Section 3. Other Infections

17. In or around 2004, I received a letter regarding vCJD. It stated that somebody who donated blood had subsequently died of vCJD and it may be that the treatment I received could have the same infection. I cannot find this letter and nothing further was mentioned about vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

18. I believe that I was tested for Hep C without my knowledge and without being given full or adequate information.

19. My blood was tested so many times that I didn't think to ask what they were testing for. I didn't have a reason to question the doctors at the time. I simply left my care with the doctors. I do not recall giving consent to be tested for HIV or Hep C.

20. I do not know if I was tested or treated for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

21. As a result of my infection I currently suffer from severe fatigue, tiredness and anxiety. Sometimes I cannot remember dates very well and experience brain fog. I never attributed these symptoms to Hep C and always assumed they were caused by the haemophilia or by over working until a Sister at the RHH told me in 2018.

22. The Hep C had affected my day-to-day living in ways I hadn't realised. I have to do a lot of forward thinking to minimise the impact on my body. For example if I am upstairs I try and do everything that I need to whilst upstairs so that I do not have to return.

23. In a typical day I find that I am unable to fit a lot in. In fact, not too long ago, I went to a family friend's house and although I was sat in the passenger seat of the car and then on my mobility scooter, it took a lot out of me. I was exhausted. Just moving my head and looking around would make me tired.

24. Living with chronic tiredness had been a big issue for me. When I am ready to go to bed, 90% of the time, getting into a comfortable position is difficult. Even if I manage to get a good night's sleep, maybe sleeping up to 9 hours, I still feel tired. I am permanently exhausted, even on days when I do nothing. I usually wake up between 8.30 and 9am, but I never wake up refreshed or with energy. I also have to rely on my father to wake me up and on some occasions he would bring breakfast to me in bed while I try and revive myself. I never feel like I can get out of bed without the motivation from my father.

25. During the day I am constantly tired, but when I start to nod off, I fight it. I don't like sleeping during the day as I worry I will be negatively judged by others. I do not want to be thought of as weak or lazy so I try to get through the day. I cope by staying at home and resting.

26. Physically, I am too tired to undertake any physical tasks like housework and cooking so my parents manage this. Even managing personal care takes it out of me and after undertaking these tasks, I need to rest. I also require assistance to wash my hair and parts of my body and to wear my socks and shoes.

27. I am constantly anxious about my health. Hep C is invisible so I cannot see its effect on my body. I know I have cleared the infection, but if I get the slightest physical symptom, I feel as though the infection has returned. I also suffer from headaches and dizzy spells. I feel like I am never going to be free from the anxiety it has caused.

28. My current health conditions are as follows: severe Haemophilia A with Inhibitors; talipes in the left foot; pseudo tumour in the left hip; loss of movement and feeling in right foot and leg due to damage from a bleed in the sciatic nerve; right calf muscle removal after surgery to correct Achilles tendon; nerve damage in right arm which causes lack of movement and grip in my right hand; joint arthropathy in both ankles, both knees, both hips, both elbows and both shoulders; severe lack of movement in right and left knees, left hip and right and left elbow; hypertension (for which I take Lisinopril daily); and nerve and bone damage in my neck caused by sitting in positions to release pain in my shoulders and elbows. I also have a problem with my kidney. I do not know what above symptoms are in relation to Hep C.

29. In or around 2005, I had a bad bleed in my thigh and had to be hospitalised. When I was admitted, the hospital tested my urine and found that the protein content was high. From the above results I was given treatment for Hep C. I never questioned anything and accepted whatever the doctors recommended. At that moment I realised that the Hep C must have been quite serious. This

added to my anxiety and has led to me to constantly worry about the effects of Hep C on my health.

30. I received Interferon treatment for a period of 12 months, which cleared the Hep C. The treatment involved weekly injections. I took the injection every Friday night after work so that it minimised the impact on my work life, although when I started it I didn't know what side-effects it would have on me.

31. I do not believe that I faced any difficulties or obstacles in accessing the treatment. I never knew that treatment was an option before and suddenly I had to take an injection, once a week for a year. I was never given prior warning of the side-effects. I believe that taking anti-depressants may have been discussed with the doctors but I would have refused it as I was in denial about my depression.

32. Prior to taking the very first injection of Interferon, I had to lie down on my bed to minimise any adverse impact the treatment would have on me. The next thing I knew I was bouncing off the bed, shaking uncontrollably. Once that passed, I calmed down and for a while it was okay. Then the depression and anxiety kicked in. Things that made me happy in the past no longer make me happy and everything seemed depressing. I am still like that now and I am nowhere near the man I used to be. I also feel as though my fatigue has worsened due to the treatment. My self-esteem has shattered and my anxiety is extremely high. As I am making this statement I am shaking as I have to talk about myself and I am not used to that. I believe that had I not had the treatment, I would not have had the above symptoms.

33. Physically, I had bad night sweats which I never had before the treatment. In fact these only started after the treatment and 2 years ago, I was having them every week. Now it happens every 6 weeks or so.

34. Since I cleared the Hep C, I am monitored by the RHH and attend for the hospital for regular blood tests. I have only had one fibroscan, which was almost 6 years ago.

35. In terms of my dental care, the RHH arranges appointments for me to attend the Charles Clifford Hospital and so far, I have not had any issues with dental care.

36. I was a very sociable person prior to being infected and now I am flustered and panicky around people whenever I am required to converse. For example, after I had the treatment, I went with my parents to visit family friends on the East coast, but found it difficult to partake in conversation as one of the reasons was that I was so exhausted. I felt very detached and unable to express myself. I feel closed off from society, but it is a willing reclusiveness.

37. I became very withdrawn and never wanted to be around my friends or people in general. I used to enjoy watching football, but I could no longer go to the stadium as there are too many people there and I would feel overwhelmed.

38. Having Hep C ruined the only serious relationship I had in my life. In 1997, I met a woman and she was aware that I had haemophilia. It got to the stage that I needed to tell her about the infection, I felt obliged to tell her. I felt I could trust her and that it would be okay, but when I told her she left me and that was the end of it. Not only did the infection ruin my relationship, but it deterred me from meeting someone else. I couldn't face going through the same experience again, being let down. I have low self-esteem and this completely destroyed my confidence. I have been single ever since and never had any children.

39. I kept the news of my infection under the radar and never told anyone other than my parents and my ex girlfriend and I believe it was because of the way the media portrayed it. I was convinced that I should keep the infection to myself. I did not want to be treated the way people were being treated, as stated in the media. I thought I would be judged very negatively and did not want my weakness to be made public knowledge. In any event, I felt that unless I was in a relationship, it was nobody's business to know. Furthermore, as soon as I heard about people being infected with Hep C, I got snowballed into thinking I had HIV as well.

40. I worked for Sheffield City Council (SCC) for approximately thirty years. However, when I started to suffer from the Hep C symptoms and side-effects of the treatment, I had to take many sick days off due to ill health. During the treatment I found it extremely difficult to concentrate. If I was reading something at work, I was unable to grasp what it meant and I had to reread the paragraph, sometimes more than once. Furthermore, due to the fatigue, it became too difficult to manage my work load, but I tried my best to cope.

41. When SCC informed staff that there would be voluntary redundancy, I opted for it and not worked since. Unfortunately I was told I did not qualify for an employee pension, however I disputed this. I was represented by the union and succeeded in my challenge.

42. Having not worked has had an adverse financial impact on me. I retried at 47, a very young age, because of how I felt physically and mentally. This hindered my progress. If I had been mentally and physically well, I would have seized opportunities to progress in my career and would have worked until my retirement age.

43. I hardly discuss my health with my family. It has only been in the last 18 months (due to the Inquiry) that I opened up about it.

44. I never lived anywhere other than with my parents. It was already difficult for them to cope with a son who had haemophilia. Hep C just rolled into that and they dealt with it like I had. Obviously, they have had to spend more time looking after me as I get exhausted in the day. Sometimes I am so exhausted that I cannot even bring myself to make a cup of tea, my parents will do it for me. As stated above, I get too tired to undertake household maintenance tasks such as cooking and cleaning so my parents do it all.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

45. I do not believe that I have faced any difficulties or obstacles in obtaining treatment, care and support in consequence of being infected with Hep C.

46. The first time I was offered counselling was last year and this was in consequence of an EIBSS application that I made. I declined the offer as it seemed pointless. I lived with haemophilia for 54 years and Hep C for possibly as long as that. What difference would counselling make? It may have helped whilst attending the sessions. However, afterwards I would have to return home alone and believe that I would get lost in my own thoughts.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

47. In 2004, I was part of the US litigation against the pharmaceutical companies. I do not recall for certain where I heard about this litigation; however I believe I was prompted after a conversation with another patient in the Haemophilia Centre. In order to join I signed a declaration agreeing not to initiate any further claims into the matter. They also requested for my medical records from the RHH, which I provided.

48. As it was in the US, I received updates via post. Eventually I received a letter stating that the litigation had come to an end and I would receive £5,000. I never thought anything would come of it, so I accepted the money without question.

49. In or around 2005/2006 I received a Stage 1 payment in the sum of £20,000 from the Skipton Fund.

50. My application to the Skipton Fund was prompted by a letter I received in the post. I went to the hospital as I had to provide a witness statement. The doctors at the RHH provided a cover letter and supporting medical records to evidence that I had been infected by contaminated blood. The doctors at the RHH have been very helpful in that respect.

51. In 2018 I received a letter from the EIBSS regarding financial assistance. However, I did not believe I was eligible for any funding so I never made a claim. Six months later, I received a phone call from the Sister at the RHH asking me if I had received a letter from the EIBSS. The Sister asked me if was interested in making a claim for financial assistance. I told the Sister that I had the letter but didn't feel I was entitled as at the time I didn't believe that

the Hep C had a massive impact on me. The Sister asked me if I suffered from fatigue and tiredness. I initially attributed those symptoms to Haemophilia, but she negated this view and said that they were commonly caused by Hep C. The Sister said I should come to the RHH so that they could go through the application form with me. My application was supported by a doctor's note and medical records.

52. The above application was successful and to begin with, I received a monthly payment of £1,500. I also qualified for a top-up payment of £64 a month. A couple of months later, my overall monthly payments were increased to £2,333.13. I never questioned if that included my top-up payments.

53. I was encouraged to apply to the EIBSS for the monthly payments. The top-up payments were means tested and they took into account the household income, which included mine and my parents. I also applied for the payment to be backdated which was granted, but I cannot recall the details for this.

54. I do not recall if there were any preconditions imposed on the application.

55. The only thing that concerned me about the Trusts and Funds was that suddenly I was given £2,300 whereas before I got nothing. It feels like it can be stopped at any given moment, with or without notice. Luckily I live with parents and own a third of our home. I also have no intention to move, but if I was in a difficult situation, for example with a family and children, that £2,300 is a salary.

Section 8. Other Issues

56. I do not care whether I find out who was responsible for authorising this operation as I do not believe that will change the way I feel about things. I wanted to share my story and support others that were providing oral evidence and statements.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

57. I do not want to apply for anonymity.

58. I do not want to provide oral evidence to the Public Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.... GRO-C

Dated 23/9/19