Witness Name: J M Merry
Statement No: WITN2815001
Exhibits: WITN2815002-9
Dated: March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF
JENNIFER MARGARET MERRY

I, Jennifer Margaret Merry, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Jennifer Margaret Merry and I was born on GRO-C 1947. I live at GRO-C Warwickshire, GRO-C I am retired and married to Philip Laurence Merry and we have two sons, Matthew James Merry (date of birth GRO-C 1974) and Simon Philip Merry (date of birth GRO-C 1977). My husband and my two sons have also provided witness statements for the Public Inquiry.

2. I make this statement as an infected person in my own right, having been infected with Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated Factor VIII. I also make this statement as an affected person in relation to my sons, Matthew and Simon, both of whom have been infected with HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.

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

Section 2. How Infected/Affected

Myself

4. I have a very mild deficiency of Factor VIII which was noted to be 13 percent just before my gall bladder operation which took place in November 1979. The only time I ever received Factor VIII was during this operation which took place at Coventry and Warwick Hospital. The consultant who carried out my operation was Mr Waterworth and my Consultant Haematologist was Dr Strevens.

5. At no time was I advised that there was a risk of receiving Factor VIII.

6. I was infected with Non-A non B (NANB) Hepatitis as a result of receiving the contaminated Factor VIII in 1979.

7. I became very ill with jaundice at the beginning of 1980. I firstly went to see my GP and then I went to see Dr Strevens who told me that I had been infected with NANB. He even sent me to a tropical diseases doctor despite confirming that I had probably been infected via the contaminated Factor VIII. There was absolutely no possibility that I could have been infected in any other way.

8. I was not given sufficient information to allow me to understand or manage NANB. I was also given no information regarding the risks of transmission. I was led to believe that NANB was basically nothing to worry about. I therefore did not really think much about it at the time and must have dismissed it from my mind. I certainly had not been told that NANB could become a problem in the future.

9. In 1998 I gave my first and only blood donation and following this I received a letter stating that I could not give blood because I had Hepatitis C. I then immediately went to see Dr Strevens at Coventry and Warwick Hospital and

he carried out some further blood tests and told me that I had been infected with Hepatitis C but that my body had now cleared it naturally.

10. Dr Strevens said that he would monitor me going forward but that never happened.

11. I was very shocked as I had no idea that I had been infected with Hepatitis C. However, on being given the shock Hepatitis C diagnosis I immediately recalled my 1980 NANB diagnosis, which I had completely dismissed from my mind because I was led to believe, by Dr Strevens, that this was nothing to worry about. However, I was acutely aware of the severity of Hepatitis C and the ramifications of what being infected with this virus meant.

12. Worryingly my husband had been giving blood on a regular basis long before we were married and he continued to do so throughout out marriage. Therefore he could have unwittingly put numerous people at risk of contracting Hepatitis C due to the medical professionals failing to correctly and fully advise me about my infection at every juncture.

Matthew

13. Matthew has severe Haemophilia A and received blood products from 1978 which comprised of Armour and NHS. Matthew required regular treatments with such products. **Exhibit WITN2815002** is an extract from Matthew's medical records confirming the batch numbers of the treatment he received between 1978 and 1984. These extracts above differ in the number of treatments he received according to records we kept; our records show more treatments than the above **Exhibit WITN2815002.**

14. Matthew was treated at Coventry and Warwick Hospital.

15. When Matthew was very young his consultant was Dr Shinton and as he became older his main consultant was Dr Strevens.

16. Neither my husband nor I were given any advice regarding the risk of Matthew receiving Factor VIII when he was young. As far as I am aware, when Matthew was old enough to manage his own affairs, he received no advice regarding the risks of receiving Factor VIII.

17. Matthew was infected with HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated Factor VIII.

18. I recall having a meeting on 8th April 1982 with Dr Vinaygmoorthy at the Coventry and Warwick Hospital. He mentioned something about a form of Hepatitis.

19. He gave me some brief advice about washing my hands after clearing up blood spillages and putting needles into a sharps box. I was already being extremely careful and there was nothing he told me that I was not already doing.

20. **Exhibit WITN2815002** refers to paragraphs 18 and 19 above and is an extract from my records which I kept in exercise books. Matthew had his bloods taken and at the time I thought that it was because Dr Vinaygmoorthy said that his brother Simon was showing symptoms of a Hepatitis virus.

21. In relation to Hepatitis B, as far as I can recall no information was provided to our family in relation to this diagnosis which was made on 14th April 1983. **Exhibit WITN2815003** refers. No information or advice was imparted to us by the medical professionals.

22. In relation to HIV, I was standing at Rugby railway station sometime in 1985 when a mother of a Haemopliliac boy who was also treated at the same hospital as our boys, came up to my husband and I and asked us if we had received a particular letter from the hospital. Philip and I told her that we had not received this letter. The mother then said "*in that case your boys are HIV positive*". This was not said with any malice, she was as concerned for our boys as she was for her own son and was totally unaware that we knew

nothing of our sons being tested for HIV. To this day Philip and I can't remember why we were at Rugby train station. Our world fell apart that day, we just couldn`t take in this appalling news, being HIV would as we thought then bring about the deaths of our much loved boys, both Matthew and Simon had been given a death sentence.

23. Shortly after this horrific chance meeting, we were called into the hospital to see Dr Strevens and I remember little from this meeting, but I do know HIV wasn`t mentioned as such and I can recall that a senior laboratory person called Mr Lavendon was also present. After this meeting Mr Lavendon came out into the corridor with us and said "*you didn`t ask then*" and I assumed that too mean, it was up to us to ask if the boys were HIV positive. Still in total shock we could hardly speak let alone ask about our son`s status. The hospital had no idea that the HIV bombshell had already been imparted to us by a parent of another Haemophiliac boy on the platform of Rugby train station. The doctors at the hospital did not at any time seek our permission to perform an HIV test on the boys, if they had asked us for our permission it would have been granted and the truly shocking way we were informed would have been avoided.

24. At no point can I remember any of the medical consultants providing us with sufficient information to allow us to understand and manage the HIV virus. They provided no information on the risks of transmission. I had always been very careful with any blood spillages, syringes and needles and this was from start of me taking on home treatment for the boys in 1982 which is confirmed in **Exhibit WITN2815003.** The consultants provided no follow up care in counselling or support to families like us, who had just received life changing news.

25. In relation to Hepatitis C, I believe Dr Strevens advised Matthew that he had Hepatitis C in 1991/1992, I know I was present as was Simon, because it was at this clinic Simon was informed that he didn`t have Hepatitis C. This would have been a clinic appointment for both boys and I believe the last one they both attended together; Matthew would have been coming up for

eighteen if it was 1992 so it was appropriate that he should begin to manage his own affairs.

Simon

26. Simon has severe Haemophilia A and received Factor VIII from 1979. **Exhibit WITN2815004** is an extract taken from a Preliminary Medico Legal Report, listing some of the blood plasma and batch numbers which Simon received. This extract differs with the amount of plasma given from the lists of treatments I recorded at the time.

27. Simon was treated at Coventry and Warwick Hospital and his consultant was Dr Strevens.

28. **Exhibit WITN2815002** also refers to the type of Hepatitis which Dr Vinaygmoorthy discussed with me on 08.04.82, but the type was not known until 1990/1991 after receiving and reading the Preliminary Medico Legal Report of which this exhibit also formed part of. Hepatitis B actually surfaced on the 08.04.82 to which **Exhibit WITN2815004** refers although we were not aware of the actual diagnosis of Hepatitis B until 1990/1991 after receiving the Preliminary Medico Legal Report. Shortly after the meeting on 08.04.82, I telephoned the hospital to speak to a doctor (whose name I cannot recall) to ask about the risks of transmission because Simon was attending friend's houses in respect of birthday parties. However, this doctor assured me that I had nothing to worry about.

29. In relation to HIV, I repeat what I said in relation to Matthew at paragraphs 22, 23 and 24 above. However, I refer to **Exhibit WITN2815003** in relation to Simon's home treatment.

30. In relation to Hepatitis C, Dr Strevens initially advised Simon that he did not have Hepatitis C and I refer to paragraph 25 above.

31. By 1996 Simon was attending hospital appointments without me. During a routine consultation regarding his HIV on 29th January 1996, Dr Strevens advised Simon that he was Hepatitis C positive. It was towards the end of the consultation and he just made a flippant remark as he was discussing Simon's HIV, which was "*and of course you have Hepatitis C*".

32. I remember Simon coming home from this appointment and being utterly distraught. We must have heard him park his car in the driveway because we both went into the hallway and opened the front door to see what was going on; he came indoors and started shouting at me because he thought I already knew about his Hepatitis C diagnosis and had not told him. He was very upset, I finally managed to calm him down and told him that I did not know and had been told that he did not have Hepatitis C. He didn`t appreciate the severity of what Hepatitis C was, but very upset.

33. I then telephoned the hospital to make an urgent appointment with Dr Strevens to discuss what had happened at Simon's consultation. I went to see Dr Strevens the following Friday with my husband. Dr Strevens told me that when he initially tested both of my sons, Matthew had tested positive and Simon negative. Dr Strevens told me that he had not believed this test result so had had Simon's blood re-tested; the result of which was positive this time. Dr Strevens advised me that he realised Simon had not been aware of his Hepatitis C diagnosis as soon as he saw the shocked look on his face. He apologised for not telling us for a period of about 5 years. However, he did not provide us with any advice to allow us to manage or understand Simon's Hepatitis C.

Section 3. Other Infections

Myself

34. I received a letter in February 2009 advising that I had not been put at risk of vCJD.

Matthew

35. I am unsure as to whether Matthew has been put at risk of vCJD.

Simon

36. Simon was put at risk of vCJD. **Exhibit WITN2815005** is a letter dated 2nd October 2008 from Dr I B Draper to "*Dear Colleague*" which states "*Many thanks for seeing Simon who is 31 years of age and HIV positive, he has a history of Haemophilia A (Factor VIII deficiency), hepatitis C and is at risk of Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease*".

Section 4. Consent

Myself

37. I do not believe that I was tested for any viruses without my knowledge or consent. I do not believe that I was treated or used for the purposes of research without my knowledge or consent.

Matthew

38. We were aware that Matthew did have bloods taken when he was younger but we were never told what they were for, we just thought they were for monitoring his general health. It was only after the HIV diagnosis and as Matthew got older that we were told that some of the tests were for CD4 counts. As far as I am aware Matthew was not treated or used for the purposes of research without our family's knowledge or consent.

Simon

39. I repeat everything I said in respect of Matthew at paragraph 38 above. We did know Simon had been tested for Hepatitis, but not for which type to which **Exhibit WITN2815002** also refers. However, the test for HTLVIII was certainly done without our family's knowledge or consent. **Exhibit**

WITN2815006 contains some extracts in relation to tests undertaken in respect of Simon.

40. Simon strongly believes that both he and Matthew were used for the purposes of research. He postulates that being young severe Haemophiliac patients presented medical professionals with the "*perfect ready made research group*".

Section 5. Impact

Myself in respect of my infection

41. I recall being very poorly shortly after my gall bladder operation in November 1979 and I believe that this as a result of my infection with NANB. I recall not being able to eat anything and being constantly nauseous and throwing up. I remember having to catch two buses to get to the hospital for my check ups because I was too ill too drive.

42. Although I was advised that I had contracted NANB in 1980 I was led to believe that this was not serious and that it would not cause me any problems in the future.

43. Therefore, it came as a huge shock when I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C in 1998. However, on the very same day, I also found out that my body had naturally cleared the virus. This was by anyone's definition an odd set of facts to process.

44. I was working as a Phlebotomist at the time and I was really worried because I thought that I would have to immediately leave my job. I immediately told my boss what had happened and they ran some further blood tests which indeed confirmed what Dr Strevens had said; which was

that I had cleared the virus. Thankfully, I was therefore allowed to keep my job which I was pleased about.

45. Some of my friends and work colleagues knew that I had been infected with Hepatitis C but that was only when I had already cleared the virus because I was told that I had cleared the virus at the same time that I was told that I had been infected.

Matthew and Simon

46. What happened to my two sons was the worst thing that any family could go through. The impact on our family was, and is, almost indescribable. We chose not to tell our sons about their HIV infections until they reached the age of circa 12 years; this was so they could enjoy a little more time just being children. Those two conversations, which took place in our back room, were one of the hardest conversations I have ever had. It was so heart breaking watching my sons processing the moment when all their hopes and dreams for the future had been cruelly stolen from them.

47. My husband and I did not tell anyone outside our immediate family about the HIV diagnosis. My sister and one of my brothers actually asked me if the boys had been infected with HIV and I confirmed that this was the case. Following this disclosure, the matter was never discussed between us again. Both my sister and brother treated my sons no differently and knowing our wishes never discussed my son's statuses with them. None of my other siblings asked me. I did not confide in my parents and Philip did not tell any of his family.

48. People knew who the Haemophiliacs were in the boy's school so they used to regularly ask me about my boy's conditions but I always told them they were fine. People used to assume that if you were a Haemophiliac then you had HIV in those days. I wanted to keep the boy's childhoods as normal as

possible and therefore did not want them to suffer any stigma in relation to HIV. I became used to denying that my boys had HIV and that was a burden in itself but one I chose to live with as I felt that this was preferable to disclosing their HIV status with the guaranteed resultant stigma which would have descended upon them.

49. I did not disclose my boy's HIV to their head teacher. He was of course aware of their bleeding disorder and I did tell him that all blood spillages should be dealt with in a controlled and careful manner and with gloves. I said that if there were any problems then he should telephone me and I would attend the school to deal with the same.

50. Philip dealt with matters by completely shutting down mentally and he never spoke about the HIV. This was his way of dealing with the unimaginable pain; quietly and alone. However, this had a knock on effect on me because I had no one to confide in or discuss the HIV with. Therefore we both effectively dealt with our son's HIV infections alone.

51. Philip and I wouldn't allow Matthew or Simon to have sleep overs at their friend's home's because mouth and nose bleeds could occur and both types of bleeds are difficult to stop and could continue whilst sleeping, resulting in the contamination of pillows and bedlinen. Unless they were protected, It was unacceptable to place other people and their families in a position where they could be exposed to the possible risk of HIV infection. This trying to protect our sons and other people, led to a constant high level of unimaginable stress, which took its toll on Philip and me, as we were the only ones that knew of our sons statuses.

52. Before I told the boys about their HIV infection, if any adverts or news about HIV came on the television, I would quickly turn it off. I did not want the boys to hear anything about it or work anything out prior to them reaching the age of 12.

53. I remember telling Matthew first. He was 3 years older than Simon so obviously reached the age of 12 first. Matthew was dreadfully upset. He asked me why he had not died and I explained that someone had to survive. He was very quiet. HIV was a death sentence and he fully appreciated that fact because it was all over the newspapers at that time.

54. I told Matthew not to tell his younger brother and in hindsight I wonder if this was the wrong thing to do. This put an extra burden on him because he now knew that his brother was also infected but that he could not tell him.

55. As Matthew became older I had to broach the subject of him having girlfriends and the ramifications of what having HIV meant to him in this regard.

56. Matthew lost all sense of purpose after I told him that he had HIV. He stopped working hard at school because he could not see the point; he thought that he was going to die.

57. **Exhibit WITN2815007** is a psychiatric report of Bryan Lask, Consultant Psychiatrist, dated 18th May 1990 in respect of Matthew which states "*He tries not to think about the future and when he does feel upset he tries to distract himself….he would like to have girlfriends but knows that he will never be able to have children……his main concern is that he does not know what will happen to him….my impression of Matthew is that he has a strong psychological defence system which protects him from the true reality of his situation. This defence system is easily penetrated at which point he becomes clearly distressed…..However, it is clear that infection with the HIV virus has had a major impact on his life, and in particular on his emotional state. It is very likely in the next few years, even if he does not develop Aids, he will suffer major emotional difficulties. He will have to adjust to the probability of a far shorter than normal life, and a period of chronic ill-health. In addition it will be difficult for him to make satisfactory and lasting relationships with people of the opposite sex, because of the very real danger of cross-infection. He is already worried about this and*

distressed at the fact that he will not be able to have children. It is much to his parents' credit that his coping so well at present".

58. Matthew kept the news of his diagnosis to himself. He did not share this with any of his friends. He ended up getting into illegal drugs and he just lived for the moment. It was expected that he would go to university, all things being equal, but he only scraped through his A-Levels.

59. Matthew ended up at Leamington Spa College and unfortunately, but totally understandably, wasted another 2 years there. Then, Matthew realised that his friends were all doing well and he wasn't, so he decided to move from GRO-C to Birmingham and turn his life around. Matthew shared a house with his school friends who had gone to University in Birmingham. He then developed a more positive attitude and I was and am so proud of how he managed to get his head around the most horrific diagnosis and consequential effects in such a positive way.

60. Having gone through telling Matthew when he reached the age of 12, I was dreading Simon reaching that age. In the end, I could not wait until he was 12 and instead I told him when he was aged 11, also in the same room in which I imparted the news to his older brother.

61. Simon was about to start preparing for his 12 plus exams and once he heard that he had been infected with HIV, he basically just shut down in every way. He became really aimless and to this day, I have no idea how he passed his 12 plus exams. I had expected Simon to be successful academically but with the HIV hanging over his head, it was impossible for him to apply to himself to anything, let alone academic study.

62. The hospital provided me with absolutely no support in relation to assisting me with telling my son's this bombshell news. There was no guidance or any ongoing support and it was like they just washed their hands of my family.

63. Both my sons went through a stage when they couldn't inject themselves and I remember Dr Strevens making a derogatory comment to them which was "*why is your mother still injecting you*". He was of the view that I should not be helping them but they were struggling at this point and I told Dr Strevens that they would treat themselves when they were ready.

64. I found the hospital to be very poor record keepers and communicators.

65. I used to regularly attend Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital to collect home treatment for my sons. In 1985 and shortly after I had found out that both my sons had been infected with HIV, I recall that on one such collection the laboratory personnel offered me Armour plasma which I refused to accept and his reply was "*well they are infected*" meaning my sons. **Exhibit WITN2815007** refers. I still refused it and came away with NHS plasma. Another occasion I recall Mr Lavendon saying to an Armour representative, whilst gesturing in my direction "*Oh there's one of our mother's*". The representative then had the audacity to sit down next to me and started to tell me that none of this was his company's fault. I sat looking at him, and stopped listening to what he had to say, all I wanted to do was to hurt him there and then and I have never wanted to hurt anyone before in my whole life. I was so shocked that the hospital staff had considered that it was even remotely appropriate to allow this representative to sit down next to me after finding out that my sons had HIV, having contracted it in the way in which they had.

66. If the boys had a bad bleed I would take them to the hospital to make sure that the amount of Factor VIII that I was giving them was sufficient. Furthermore, we had numerous appointments to attend which took up a lot of our time. I therefore did not go out to work until both boys had their own transport and could take care of themselves. I was their full time carer until that time and we spent a lot of our time at the hospital.

67. The HIV caused my sons so many emotional problems and it breaks my heard that they cried themselves to sleep at night; sometimes wishing that they were not here anymore or wishing that their lives were different.

68. Matthew had a number of physical difficulties as a result of the Hepatitis C and his liver was badly affected; although had not progressed to cirrhosis. By this time, Matthew was in control of his own affairs and he was being treated at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham at that time. He underwent a course of Interferon and Ribavirin in order to tackle his Hepatitis C. I remember him having a number of horrific side effects and he was dealing with these whilst also studying at University. Thankfully he managed to clear the virus.

69. Once Matthew completed his studies at University he went to Australia for 18 months to get away from everything and to give himself some much needed space and time. When Matthew returned, he did so with a renewed zest for life. He started thinking about having relationships and he started to confide in one or two of his friends about his infections. His friends treated him exactly the same following these disclosures and to a large extent, a lot of the stigma had died down by this time.

70. Matthew then met a wonderful girl called Michelle, who went on to become his wife. Matthew told her about his infections before they got married and it did not phase her and they have gone on to have two wonderful children; and we feel blessed that we now have grandchildren which was something we never ever thought was going to happen once our sons had been infected with HIV. However, Matthew and Michelle had to fund their own IVF treatment which we all found a bitter pill to swallow.

71. In relation to Simon, prior to his infections, it was hoped that he would go to University but naturally following news of his HIV, he became very lost. His A-Level results were awful but he managed to get into Plymouth University. He did an electrical engineering degree but dropped out after only half a year. Simon could not manage to apply himself with any effectiveness to his studies such were the horror of the thoughts in his head.

72. **Exhibit WITN2815008** is a psychiatric report of Bryan Lask, Consultant Psychiatrist, dated 18th May 1990, in respect of Simon which states "*I found*

Simon to be a very pleasant boy who spoke openly about himself. He fully understands that he is HIV positive and that he was infected from Factor VIII. He knows that he will never be able to have children, and that he may contract Aids, for which there is no cure and from which he might die. He did not know what the chances were of developing Aids, or of dying. He tells me that he does not like to think about his situation as it upsets him when he does……It is very likely that in the next few years he will experience more psychological distress as the full implications of his illness impinge upon him. It is very much to the credit of his parents that he is coping so well at present".

73. However, after another year or two Simon also turned his life around. He started working at a school covering their IT support and it was there that he met his wonderful wife to be; Kelly. They went on to have two children and they had to fund their second round of IVF treatment.

74. We never thought that we would see the boys grow up, let alone get married and have children. This tragic story that has been our life has finally got some sort of happy ending although there are still dark days but we are now blessed with two fantastic daughters-in-law and four wonderful grandchildren; two boys and two girls.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

Myself

75. As far as I am aware I never suffered any obstacles in relation to accessing any medical or dental treatment.

76. I was never offered any counselling or psychological support either as a result of my own diagnosis or in relation to my son's diagnoses.

Matthew

77. GRO-C

78. GRO-C

Matthew was treated like a modern day leper even by some medical personnel.

79. Simon recalls seeing a sign on Matthew's hospital door GRO-C GRO-C which said "*Risk of Infection*".

80. Matthew was never offered any counselling or psychological support.

Simon

81. When Simon was aged about 14, he was admitted to hospital following a bad bleed in his kidneys. He was placed in an isolation room which was out of the ordinary.

82. **Exhibit WITN2815009** is a letter dated 16th January 1995 from Iain Barker, Laboratory Manager to Dr D Galliford which states "*I know you are aware of this patient's high risk status. When requesting any tests from the Pathology Laboratory on him please could you attach one of the enclosed*

biohazard stickers on the top left hand corner of the request form? This will alert pathology staff without communicating to anybody else the high risk nature of this patient".

83. During Simon's IVF they told him that being HIV positive was fine but because he used to have Hepatitis C, despite the fact that his body had already cleared this naturally, their embryo had to be stored in a separate incubator to all the other embryos. This was so that it could be checked and lifted in and out of its incubator, which did not foster the best developmental conditions and thus reducing the chance of a successful result.

84. Simon was never offered any counselling or psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

Myself

85. I have never received a penny from the Skipton Fund.

Matthew and Simon

86. From about 1990 both boys received £15 per week from the Macfarlane Trust (MFT). They also received a winter fuel payment of £440 per annum.

87. I believe that the MFT also provided about £500 in respect of each boy in or around 1991 so that we could go on holiday as a family to Bacton in Norfolk. They also funded a further £250 in respect of the same holiday.

88. The MFT refused our applications for grants for things such as bedding because Philip's salary was considered to be sufficient. We were therefore not entitled to a number of grants or other payments on the same basis.

89. I found the application procedure for the MFT relatively straightforward but then the usual outcome was that we were refused any help or support.

90. I found the MFT fit for purpose up to around 1995 and we were grateful for the scraps of support that came our way. We were knocked back on so many occasions so when we finally got something from them we were extremely grateful. I suppose this is one way to keep those people already suffering *"happy"*.

91. **GRO-C**

92. Once Simon was old enough to deal with his own affairs he took over the management in relation to matters pertaining to the MFT and he discusses this in his witness statement.

93. Simon did not receive a penny from the Skipton Fund because they successfully postulated that he his body had naturally cleared the Hepatitis C virus. This seems entirely unfair and ludicrous.

94. Each boy received the ex-gratia payment sums of £20,000 on 9th February 1990.

95. We were involved in the previous HIV litigation of 1991 which necessitated that we signed a waiver. Each boy received £21,500 on an ex-gratia basis which was held in Trust for them by Queens Bench Master Turner. My boys only received the smaller sum because they were expected to die before adulthood. We had to sign our rights away in order to receive this derisory sum and then up popped Hepatitis C shortly afterwards.

Section 8. Other Issues

96. I want justice. Due to the horrific stigma attached to HIV we have been unable to talk about this tragedy until relatively recently. The impact and ramifications it has had upon us as a family was, and is, indescribable. You should be able to protect your children but we were unable to do this. We were treated abominably and shown no compassion or empathy. We were

expected to get on with it and basically man up. It was like because our sons had Haemophilia they were somehow expected to have to deal with these horrific infections as a matter of course and to do so quietly with the minimum of disruption to society.

97. If any compensation arises in the future I would like my sons, together with everyone else, to receive the same amount of compensation. The emotional journey was and is the same for everyone, whether they are young, old or have children. This has been no ordinary life.

Anonymity

98. I do not wish to apply for anonymity and 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....11 - 4 - 19............