

Witness Name: RACHEL LOUISE EACHUS-COYLE

Statement No: WITN2894001

Exhibits: WITN2894002-3

Dated: FEBRUARY 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RACHEL LOUISE EACHUS-COYLE

I, Rachel Louise Eachus-Coyle, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Rachel Louise Eachus-Coyle. I was born on GRO-C 1977 and I live at GRO-C I am married with three children, two boys and a girl. My 5 year old son, the eldest of the two boys, has severe Haemophilia A.
2. My father, Brian Richard Coyle (born on GRO-C 1947), was co-infected with the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products. He died from renal cell carcinoma (kidney cancer) on 10th July 1996 at aged 49.
3. My mother has given her own Witness Statement to the Inquiry (Witness Number WITN1171001).
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with

limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father had severe Haemophilia A. He was diagnosed from birth, his older brother, Joe, had also been diagnosed by that time.
6. My father was treated at the Oxford Haemophilia Centre, at the Churchill Hospital under the care of Dr Rizza, Dr Matthews and Dr Giangrande. He was initially treated with plasma and then cryoprecipitate. I believe he was treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) from 1973 or 1974 after he met my mother.
7. I refer to **Exhibit WITN2894002** being my father's Hospital and Home Treatment Record listing the product/material supplied and used. Sheet No 8 of the Home Treatment Record is missing, being the product/material supplied from end January to the beginning of September 1985.
8. I refer to **Exhibit WITN2894003** being my father's National Haemophilia Database Record from the date of 4th January 1978. The record appears to be inconsistent with the data provided under **Exhibit WITN2894002**.
9. I do not believe that there were any warnings from the hospital about the risks associated with FVIII blood products and I understand that my father was unaware of any danger until the mid-1980s and the HIV/AIDS scare all over the media from that time. According to my father's medical notes and records, he had been tested for HIV as many as 16 times by the date of 16th March 1987. The test result was negative each time. I am not sure that my father would have necessarily known that he was being tested for HIV.
10. I do not know when my father was told that he was HBV and HCV positive as I was a child at the time. According to my father's medical notes and records he first tested HBV positive on 8th October 1984 and he first tested positive for HCV on 6th June 1990.

Section 3. Other Infections

11. I am not aware of any other infection that my father contracted as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.

Section 4. Consent

12. I am not aware that my father was treated or tested without his knowledge, consent or without being provided with adequate information. His medical notes and records appear to indicate that he was tested on quite a few occasions, more frequently than he was perhaps aware.

Section 5. Impact

13. I do not remember much about what it meant to my father for him to learn that he had contracted HCV. I remember my parents having discussions about it. I knew that something was wrong with my father and that it had something to do with his haemophilia treatment. I also remember that some of my father's friends had been infected with HIV/AIDS.

14. I remember the Christmas before my father died. He did not have any alcohol to celebrate Christmas over the entirety of the Christmas period. He was unwell and he looked unwell. He lost a lot of weight.

15. The Haemophilia Centre missed the signs that my father had cancer (to include the blood in his urine and other indicative symptoms). They treated him (for what they thought to be bleeds) with FVIII.

16. My father went for hospital tests with my mother. I remember him coming back one day and telling us that he had cancer and that the cancer could not be treated. That would have been in or around March 1996. He deteriorated from there. He got thinner and thinner. My mother took time off work to look after him. I remember him saying "When you snuff it, you snuff it". He

seemed to accept his fate but it must have been terrible for him. He was very brave and it was heart breaking.

17. I was 18 years old when he died. I did not know how I was supposed to feel. I was numb. My father's death hit me really hard around five years later when my best friend lost her father to cancer. I was flooded with the memory of my own father's death and I had a break down.

18. I have two sisters. My father was so proud of his girls. He always referred to the three of us as his girls. He called us his 'snugglers'. He was loving and affectionate. He always made time to give us cuddles and talk to us. There was nothing we couldn't talk to him about. After my father died, his friends told us how he always talked about us, his girls, and how very proud he was of us. He has grandchildren that he never knew and I am so sad about that. He would have loved them so much. Every day that passes is a day of our father that has been lost to us.

19. My five year old son is treated with man made products. I am so grateful that he will not have to go through the ordeal that my father had to go through.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

20. I do not believe that my father was offered counselling or psychological support when he was diagnosed with HCV. When he passed away from Renal Cell Carcinoma our family were not offered any counselling or psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

21. After my father's death my mother successfully claimed the £20,000/£25,000 ex gratia payment from the Skipton Trust.

Section 8. Other Issues

22. There are no other issues.

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Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

23. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not want to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

9/3/2019

MEDICAL SUMMARY

(This summary is not intended to be exhaustive but sets out key points in the records relevant to the Statement)

27.08.1981	‘Hepatitis B Antigen not detected’
08.10.1984	‘Anti-HBs positive’
08.07.1987	‘Mr Coyle has been tested 16 times in all, the last time being on 16.3.87. On all occasions he has been anti-HIV negative.’
20.02.1990	‘Anti-HBs detected’ ‘Hep C Ab Not detected’
06.06.1990	‘Anti-HCV detected’
25.08.1992	‘Anti-HCV detected, HCV RNA detected’
30.07.1993	Patient informed of HCV status