

Witness Name: Zena Morgan

Statement No: WITN4490001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 14/12/2020

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ZENA MORGAN**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

I, Zena Morgan, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is Zena Morgan. My date of birth is GRO-C 1948. I'm a retired teacher and I have been living in Somerset with my partner for 19 years. My address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I intend to speak about my late husband, Daniel (Danny) Morgan who was infected with HIV through Factor VIII in 1984, and died in 1990.

## Section 2. How Infected

4. Danny was born on GRO-C 1943. His family was GRO-C and lived in East London.
5. His mother had 3 children. His older brother died before Danny was born. He died when he was 2 years old from a bleed in his throat. They realised afterwards that he had had haemophilia.
6. His sister came next, and 4 years later Danny was born. He had Haemophilia A. He was cosseted as a baby because they were worried he would get badly injured or die.
7. He was very protected and he couldn't walk at the age of 4 because they wouldn't let him. Then they had the help of a nurse who helped him live a normal life.
8. Danny's father died when he was 11 years old, and his mother was often in hospital too. She had a lump in her breast and had to undergo a large operation. When her husband died, she was left with a sick boy and a daughter.
9. Danny was often in hospital during his childhood but he didn't give in to some of the disabilities. He had an entrepreneurial character. As a child he had a little business going. He would go to the glass makers and collect the little chunks of glass that they were discarding. He would then turn them into material for the bottom of fish tanks. He had a very powerful and positive personality.
10. In 1954, when he was 11, he went to Lord Mayor Treloar's College. The headmaster had run a public school and he was tough, but that worked. Danny would have been given cryoprecipitate while he was at Treloar's, the Factor 8 came later, after he had left the school.

11. Many years later we went to an Old Treloar's Boys Association event. It was an eye-opener for me. The guy who offered to be a scribe had no arms. He took a pen out of his shirt pocket and wrote the notes with his feet with great ease.
12. Danny left Treloar's in about 1959, at the age of 16, because he wanted to live the London life. He failed his O levels but was very musical and played in a band. He had a part-time job with The Yardbirds when one of the band members was off sick for a while.
13. He did a year of untrained teaching at a school in Hackney which was very challenging. Then he went to Brighton College of Education to do his teacher training, which is where I met him. He must have gone there in 1963. I think they'd only let blokes in very recently. There was a scheme for mature male students. There were 8 of them – these slightly older men.
14. He was 23 when I met him, and he had a very upfront personality. He was in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year and I was in my 1<sup>st</sup> year. We married as soon as I left the college in 1969.
15. He couldn't take his final exams but he did do his course. After that he got a job at a school in Hackney but only got half pay as he was not fully qualified. He found it quite hard, so he left and got a job at Crown Agents. He was an Executive Officer, which is a bit smarter than a Clerical Officer. He quite enjoyed it.
16. He loved music, bridge and chess. He said he really wanted to do music. He sang and was a good harmonica player. He played in a band and also managed some bands. It was good fun but not profit-making. At one of his gigs, a guy in the audience jumped to his feet and shouted, "that's my song!" He kept ringing up the home phone after Danny died. We had good chats, and he would tell me what a good harmonica player Danny was.

17. Danny had some joint issues when I met him. He was quite damaged by the early bleeds that he had had into his joints. He couldn't straighten his arms or legs, and he was quite slim as he couldn't use his limbs. The issue was not so much bleeding but bruising. He had bad nosebleeds which was a serious problem, but the hospital showed me how to stop them.
18. He used to take cryoprecipitate and then it changed to Factor 8, I'm not sure exactly when. He was taking Factor 8 prophylactically at home before we had the children; 3 times a week, 2 bottles. I would inject him. Before that it was only administered in hospital.
19. It would usually get injected in the back of his hand. Sometimes it was stressful. One time I failed, I couldn't do it. We called the out of hours GP.
20. He was initially seen at the London Hospital which is where he was still on cryoprecipitate.
21. He was moved onto Factor 8 when he transferred to Kings College Hospital, I'm not sure which department. I don't remember the doctor's name.
22. Kings College is a good hospital with good facilities. If we had to go to casualty, which was very often in the early days, they were very quick. They knew the urgency, so he would go first.
23. We were in a unique position in a way. We did not produce our own children, we wanted to adopt. It was a long haul with some very upsetting moments.
24. We approached GRO-C to start with. We got passed as prospective adoptive parents. We saw an advert for a little girl with cerebral palsy and we thought, "we know what it's like to live with a disability, so it might be an advantage." But we were told by someone at GRO-C Social Services, "You are not in the running for this child. We have decided that if you want a disabled child, you can have your own."

NOT RELEVANT

25. Then we approached GRO-C who were fantastic. We quite soon had 2 children placed with us; an 8 year old boy and a 2 year old boy. It was exceptionally fast because where they had been previously had been quite unsatisfactory. They moved in with us in January 1984.
26. It was quite soon after that when Danny came home from hospital and said he'd been infected with HIV. It was through Factor 8 and they told him the batch number, but he wasn't too interested to know that.
27. I'm not sure why he had gone into the hospital, as he was having injections at home at the time. He must have hurt himself or gone in for a routine test. There didn't seem to be any concern about an issue, or at least I don't think he picked up on that.
28. Danny didn't seem to have been given much information about HIV because he didn't give any to me. Nobody knew much about it. You only got it when you were gay, that's all we knew. They didn't tell us to be careful with the kids or anything. But they must have told him some things because, as soon as he found out, he told me we wouldn't have sex any longer, as he didn't want me to get it.
29. Danny didn't have any tattoos, nor did he ever take intravenous drugs. He didn't have any other transfusions prior to the HIV diagnosis. He might have had a transfusion when he later had an operation in relation to the cancer but that was after the HIV was diagnosed.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

30. As far as I'm aware Danny had no other infections.

### **Section 4. Consent**

31. There weren't any warnings about Factor 8 as far as I'm aware. At least none that Danny passed on to me. You just go to hospital and they inject him. You're more concerned with his needs. You trust them because they're doctors.

32. He was not tested on without his consent, absolutely not to my knowledge. I never heard him mention anything like that.

### **Section 5. Impact**

33. When Danny got the HIV diagnosis, he was working for a small record company, but the job came to an end very abruptly. It did look very much like it was the HIV that caused that, and that made Danny angry. He tried to get another job in music and contacted some people but he didn't get any interest at all. He really felt that it was because of the HIV.

34. Our youngest son had a couple of friends who used to come and play, and often stayed over, but that stopped when they found out about the HIV. The parents stopped their children coming and they stopped inviting our son over.

35. My parents had been against us getting married in the first place; partly because Danny was disabled, but mostly because he was GRO-C There was no hint that they were worried about any infection. When we found out about the HIV, my mum didn't seem at all bothered. My father had already died.

36. There was no problem with our friends, family or my colleagues. Of course, in that era, people were scared. They didn't understand the details. Danny was very upfront. He did lots of publicity, with several newspapers.
37. Danny was very happy to go public. He would tell people without a problem. In some ways that gave him problems, but he didn't care.
38. There were articles about him in national papers. People contacted him as he was happy to speak about it. Our names were widely known, it was no secret. They always made our younger son's face unrecognisable in any photos for protection.
39. Danny also got involved with some radio programmes. There was a Radio 4 series called *Relative Values* which was about ordinary families that aren't so ordinary. It had about 8 episodes and they asked us to do one. The producer came over and we chatted. The programme was excellent, it won an award. I think I have it on a CD. That was in August 1989, exactly a year before Danny died. They replayed the programme a year later and at the end of our episode they mentioned that Danny had passed away.
40. Having not found another job in the music industry, Danny applied for a job with Greenwich Local Authority. He was a great blagger. It was a job setting up a centre for people who had mental health issues, for people who did not have a purpose in life. They would grow vegetables and run community events. He had an interview for the role in 1989. He said, "I don't think I've got the job. It was all women in dungarees with cropped hair. They asked me how I'd feel if I had a woman for a boss. I said I have worked with plenty of ladies, but they said, 'we don't have any ladies here we have women.'" In the end, he got the job. He set it up and ran it for a year. That was before he got very ill.
41. At the time, I had quite a high-level job in a school in Peckham. I taught primary. It was quite stressful but I loved it. There was something like 30

different languages spoken across the school. I did 30 years of teaching, I was still there when Danny died.

42. We didn't have any issues with the HIV and the adoption process. The haemophilia was apparently not an issue either. We only had the standard issues of adoption. Life was a nightmare. Both of the children GRO-D The older boy was going to boarding school as a result, GRO-D He was 8 GRO-D right through to secondary school. Later on, GRO-D secondary school before we got him into a therapeutic community school in Harwich. The younger boy was very withdrawn. They had a terrible time.

43. Life was really tough. We had the issue of the HIV and Danny had physical problems from the haemophilia too. There were a lot of things he couldn't do. He couldn't lift things, he couldn't stand comfortably for very long, he couldn't walk very far. It limited what he could help out with at home and in the garden.

44. As a result of his health needs, Danny was given a mini and the driving lessons were paid for. It was good that he drove because I didn't. We drove all over the place. There were good times as well as bad.

45. About 2 years before he died, Danny started having stomach problems. He had always had some toilet issues and anxiety around it, because his childhood nurse used to sit him on a toilet right after a meal.

46. He was losing weight then too. The GP looked into it, and discovered that he had bowel cancer. That was in 1988. In certain areas HIV can impact the cancer I ask myself did it cause it? I don't know.

47. In the summer of 1989, he went to Kings College Hospital to have a big operation to remove a really large chunk of his bowel. He refused to have it all taken away, he didn't want that. The surgeon said that the operation was a great success, but I think what he meant was that his part in it was a big success. Sadly, Danny was not well afterwards.



48. In around April 1990, they discovered that the cancer had spread. Danny was in St Thomas' Hospital. I can't remember why he was moved there because we were still living in South London. They said it had spread very widely and there was nothing they could do. There had been treatment offered after the operation, but Danny had refused that. His sister had died 5 years earlier, she had a very tricky type of leukaemia. She was terribly ill for 2 years. I don't know how she went through it. She had a very hard time going through treatment, and she still died. So Danny said he didn't want to go through that.
49. The cancer had spread just about everywhere. He was really struggling. One day they phoned me from hospital and said, "Danny has asked for enough morphine to knock out the pain. If I give it to him some of his organs will gradually break down. Should I give it to him?" I said, "I don't know why you're asking me?"
50. Danny asked the doctors how long he had but they told him they were not god and could not say. But then they told him that he had a few months. I think it was May or June then.
51. Danny was then transferred home and was cared for by St Christopher's Hospice. They would come over and give him a morphine drip. Then I would have to prepare a cocktail of painkillers to top it up.
52. He was suffering but he was still himself. A week before he died, he said, "I'm having lunch with the solicitor." I was shocked and I told him he surely couldn't drive. I called the doctors and asked. They said, "we give enough morphine to knock out the pain and it doesn't affect driving."
53. At that time, I had asked for some unpaid leave. I was given 2 months off. One morning, I went to give him the cocktail of painkillers and he wouldn't wake up.

54. An ambulance came. They asked me how old he was. I told them he was 46 and I was 42. They asked me, "have you ever thought life's not fair?" and I said, "no not really." We didn't really think like that.
55. He was then taken into the hospice. St Christopher's Hospice was very special. The staff were incredibly caring. He was awake when I got there, eating and joking with the nurses.
56. He died 2 days later. He didn't wake up. He was in a different room because of the HIV. He had to be separated as there was a risk of infecting others.
57. His mother was still alive. She was a tough lady. She had 3 children and they all died before her. What can you say...
58. Danny's siblings all died before him. He had a wider side of the family too, but they were not very involved. They did pull out the stops for the funeral though, they were very supportive with that.
59. Our younger son was 8 years old when Danny died. In fact, the adoption papers came through the day after he died.
60. The death certificate didn't have HIV on it because the hospice didn't take HIV patients. It just said bowel cancer on it.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

61. As far as I'm aware there was no HIV treatment on offer at the time.
62. I'm not sure if Danny was given any leaflets when he was diagnosed, I don't remember any at all. It was 1984 so there was lots of talk about HIV in newspapers and big adverts on TV, mostly aimed at gays. We got our information from there.

63. I don't know if Danny had been given much information. He just said we had to stop having sex. I don't remember if there was any comment on blood. He never really cut himself, it was just the bruising and nosebleeds, but no information was given about that.

64. I don't think Danny was offered counselling, he didn't want it. He didn't have any mental health issues at all.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

65. Danny joined a group action. There was a group of solicitors on the case. I can't remember their name but they were based in Peckham. There were two brothers, and one was a politician.

66. I remember there was a condition that everyone involved with the case had to sign a waiver, and everyone had to get the money, or else nobody would get anything. The waiver said something about liability, and that after the case was closed you could not come back and request more money.

67. I remember the solicitor asked Danny if he would accept it, and he did because there were a lot of younger men who would die from the HIV. That's why he did it. They all got 'out of court' settlements, which were lump sums.

68. He got £30,000 and I got £5,000. The boys got either the same as me or more, I can't remember. It was all put in a trust until they were 18.

69. Danny did not approach any of the trust funds. As a foster family we were already given support, so we were ok financially.

70. I don't remember who from, but I was also offered £10,000 on the condition that I could provide medical records. I think I got the letter about a year ago, when there was talk of an Inquiry. But I was told that medical

records get destroyed after 25 years, so it was not possible to prove he had HIV, as his death certificate said the cause of death was cancer.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

14/12/20