

Witness Name: J L A Henry
Statement No: WITN3954001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: May 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JASON LLOYD ANTONIO HENRY

I, Jason Lloyd Antonio Henry, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Jason Lloyd Antonio Henry and I was born on GRO-C 1978. I live at GRO-C London, GRO-C.
2. I was infected with Hepatitis C via contaminated blood products.
3. **This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my medical records.**

Section 2. How Infected

4. I have mild Haemophilia A which necessitated treatment with Factor VIII concentrates.
5. I was treated at the Royal Free Hospital (RFH) in London under the care of Professor Christine Lee.

6. I was infected with Hepatitis C via contaminated blood products.
7. My mother told me that I received relatively large quantities of Factor VIII concentrates during surgery to remove my adenoids in 1981 when I was aged 3. As far as I am aware, my mother was not given any warning or advice regarding the risk of infection from Factor VIII concentrates.
8. In or around 1999 when I was aged about 20, I attended a routine appointment with Professor Lee at the RFH. My mother was also present at this meeting. Professor Lee told me that I had been infected with Hepatitis C in or around 1981. What Professor Lee told me "*went in one ear and out of the other ear*". I was in shock but immediately appreciated the severity of what I was being told. Everything was a bit of a blur due to the shock I was in so I can't remember much of what she said to me at that appointment. However, I do remember her telling me that the clinicians had been sending letters to my mother's address and had apparently been looking for me to tell me about my diagnosis. I can confirm that we did not receive any letters from the RFH.
9. Professor Lee told me that I would need to immediately commence treatment (I can't remember the name of the treatment) in order to try to eradicate the Hepatitis C. However, I panicked when she told me about the side effects of the treatment and to this day, I have been too scared to embark on any of the treatments for Hepatitis C. I have therefore had to live with a "*ticking time bomb*" inside me.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. As far as I am aware I have not been put at risk of vCJD or been infected with any other viruses.

Section 4. Consent

11. I was tested for Hepatitis C without mine or my mother's knowledge and therefore without consent.

12. I was treated with Factor VIII concentrates without my mother being advised that there could be potential risks connected to this treatment. I was therefore treated without informed consent.

13. It is scary to think that I could have been used for research purposes without either mine or my mother's knowledge and therefore without consent. Every time I visited the hospital I felt like I was treated as a research subject and not as a person in my own right.

Section 5. Impact

14. Growing up I remember being scared of going to hospitals. This fear was all encompassing and led me to avoid nearly all sports in case I became injured which could necessitate a hospital visit.

15. This fear became further compounded when I found out that I had been infected with Hepatitis C when I was aged 20. I was petrified of undergoing any treatment to cure my infection which meant that I had to live with the virus inside me and I was acutely aware that it was doing untold damage to my insides.

16. I felt that I had nowhere, and no one, to turn to and that my life had been ruined.

17. I can't remember when I received the Stage 1 Payment from the Skipton Fund (SF) but I do remember blowing the entire amount on alcohol GRO-C

GRO-C

GRO-C

18. Drinking excessively GRO-C was my escape and coping mechanism; it enabled me, to a point, to block out the reality of what being infected with Hepatitis C meant. I do think that things could have been different for me if I had received adequate and timely counselling.

19. Despite the fact that I tried to block out what was happening to me by adopting reckless behaviour, I was unable to escape all of my dark and difficult thoughts and my mental health suffered. I have had to battle depression for most of my life.
20. Hepatitis C rendered me a nervous wreck most of the time and it tore my relationships apart. It caused the breakdown of my relationship with my daughter's mother and was also responsible for the demise of my subsequent relationship because she treated me differently because of my Hepatitis C and was also [GRO-C] The virus has a big impact on future relationships because there was always,, and still is, the fear that it will scare off potential partners.
21. Hepatitis C made my life a living hell and I worry about the effect it has had upon my family and in particular, on [GRO-C]. She was particularly [GRO-C] about my infection because [GRO-C] [GRO-C] prior to my treatment with Factor VIII concentrates. We don't really talk about what happened either which is hard.
22. In terms of my physical health I currently suffer with liver scarring which has not yet advanced to cirrhosis. The clinicians are currently pushing me to embark upon a new treatment to clear the Hepatitis C. I don't know the name of this treatment but I do know that I am scared to even consider it. However, I am aware that it does not come with as many serious side effects as some of the earlier treatments.
23. I also suffer with extreme fatigue and have Type 1 Diabetes.
24. I experience numerous bleeds in my right thigh for which I require Factor VIII treatment. Despite being assured by clinicians that the treatment is now extremely safe I am, understandably, very concerned that history could repeat itself. I feel on edge every time I receive this treatment.
25. In terms of disclosure, I have only told a limited number of people to include my mother, father and partners.

26. In summary, I feel like I am living with a death sentence and I don't know for how long my body can withstand the impact of this virus.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

27. I refer to paragraph 13 of my witness statement. I felt that the clinicians treated me like a research subject rather than as a person in my own right. Even now when I attend the hospital I feel that I am treated as a "*lesser person*" due to my Hepatitis C.

28. I have never been offered any counselling or psychological support in consequence of my infection. There has been no admission of guilt or apology by the Government or the NHS.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

29. I received the Stage 1 Payment of £20,000 from the SF sometime ago.

30. I had to contact EIBSS in 2019 in order to obtain financial support from them. I am currently awaiting the backdated payments from 2016 to 2018.

31. I survive on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and the payments I receive from EIBSS.

Section 8. Other Issues

32. I hope that the Inquiry ensures that the right people are brought to account for their wrongdoing.

33. I have been neglected by the Government and the NHS and should be entitled to proper compensation.

Anonymity

34. I do not wish to apply for anonymity and I do want 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...04/06/2020.....