Witness Name: JONATHAN SMART
Statement No: WITN3972001
Exhibits: WITN3972002
Dated: JANUARY 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN3972002

Witness Name: RITA GREENWOOD
Statement No: WITN1251001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: MAY 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RITA GREENWOOD

I, Rita Greenwood, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Rita Greenwood. I was born on GRO-C 1941 and I live at GRO-C GRO-C Manchester GRO-C. I am, by occupation, a retired teacher.

2. My husband, John Greenwood (born on GRO-C 1936), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products. He died from liver cancer on 5th December 1996 aged 60.

3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to John's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. John had mild to moderate Haemophilia A. He was treated at the Manchester Haemophilia Centre at the Manchester Royal Infirmary under the care of Dr Wensley and Dr Delamore initially and then, from the late eighties, Dr Hay.

5. John was treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) blood products on a regular basis. John was told that he was infected with a virus by Olive Redding, the Haemophilia Centre Co-Ordinator some time in the 1980s. I am unsure when he first tested HCV positive. John was never told how serious the virus could become and was certainly not informed it was life threatening. I cannot recall John's infection ever being referred to as 'hepatitis'.

6. John was just told he had been infected with a virus. We were both working hard with two children to raise. We didn't have a clue about hepatits/HCV. There was no internet to enable us to look into it. We trusted those who were meant to be helping us. We just got on with things.

7. John was never warned about the ways in which the virus could be spread. John was never offered any treatment. He was not properly monitored or offered any scans. Moreover I had a hysterectomy at a relatively early age and we were having unprotected sex. It is a miracle that I wasn't infected.

8. John was never warned of the risk of infection before he was treated with FVIII. Meg, the outreach nurse, coming to our home in the last three weeks of John's life thought it was terrible. She was visiting other haemophiliacs with HCV as well as HIV/AIDS. She said to me that it was awful that John, in particular (given his mild to moderate severity), was infected and was suffering such a fate when it could have been avoided. She said that Dr Wensley's policy when treating haemophiliacs was to give every haemophiliac the same FVIII for bleeds and he would not vary the medication according to the degree of haemophilia his patients had. She said Dr Wensley was insistent they all be treated the same.

She believed there were other products available that would not have carried the risk FVIII did.

9. In July 1996 John sought treatment at the Haemophilia Centre after injuring his foot in the back garden. They took blood from John and said that they were going to do some tests. About a week later we took a call asking that we both see Dr Hay as a matter or urgency. We went to see Doctor Hay and he said he had "very grave news" to tell us. He said "the blood levels show that the virus that you've been suffering from has affected your liver. It is so heavily infected that the only chance you have to survive is to have a liver transplant". Without a transplant John would only have 5 months to live. We didn't know what to say. The shock was tremendous. Dr Hay was making an immediate referral to a hepatologist.

10. I believe that John was given a scan within just 24 hours of us seeing Dr Hay. I do not recall the name of the hepatologist that we saw but I remember leaning forward and reading a memo on his desk at the top of John's file whilst he was out of the room. At the end of the memo from Dr Hay it read "I wonder how many poor souls there are out there in John's condition." We were told that the whole of John's liver was covered in tumours and there was nothing that could be done for him.

11. After this news we just left. After that John wanted nothing more to do with the Haemophilia Centre and/or the hospital. He was adamant that he was not going to accept any form of help or treatment from them at all. He said to me more than once "They have murdered me Rita. I don't want to see any of them and I don't want any of them to step foot in our house".

12. I immediately resigned from my teaching post (and took early retirement). I was pretty much left to nurse John at home on my own. No-one from the hospital contacted me with offers of help and no advice was given to me about the spread

of infection and John was bleeding all the time. I wasn't really able to cope with it at all. John's bleeds were dreadful. He was bleeding through his mouth and through his skin with me doing little more than try to patch him up with plasters. His skin was so thin that even to try removing the plasters would again rip his skin and cause a bleed. My GP called me on a weekly basis to check on things and prescribed the strongest pain relief that he could. I would collect the prescription. I was under enormous psychological strain and my weight dropped by 3 or 4 stone. It was only in the last month of John's life did he allow me to make contact with the Haemophilia Centre and accept the help of an outreach nurse (Meg). John wanted nothing to do with doctors. He said they had murdered him.

13. Meg ordered some equipment to help and would do the dressings for John's bleeds. She was devastated by all the patients she saw in the same position. She also said to me she could get me an immediate test to see if I had HCV. I had never been offered a test even though my consultants knew that John was infected. I couldn't face a test whilst John was dying. I couldn't have stood being infected myself. I wouldn't have been able to cope with it on top of everything.

14. Aside from Meg's disclosure about Dr Wensley treating all haemophiliacs the same, she alerted me to what was ahead of me. She said that John would experience a full haemorrhage from the mouth when he died. She said she was quite concerned about me personally because even the most experienced sisters dealing with this in a hospital environment have found it to be a terrifying experience. She was the only person who ever showed me any thought or care in this respect. John's death was indeed a terrible one. I was alone with him at 6.00 am when he died and I was traumatised. I immediately called 999 and my best friend (now a lady vicar).

15. Within three hours of John's body being removed from our home by the undertaker, two men arrived wearing what I can only describe as yellow spacesuits and emptied the entire contents of our bedroom and bathroom other than sanitary fittings. They had an open back lorry parked on my front driveway. My best friend and I were told that they had been ordered (by whom I do not know) to collect everything and burn it in the hospital incinerator. It was a terrible ordeal to endure when my husband had just died and there was nothing but bare boards left. My daughter and grandson and I spent that same night squashed in twin beds in the other room. We were in such a state. I can't explain just how awful it felt. I had just lost my husband and then my house was stripped to the bones.

Section 3. Other Infections.

16. I am not aware of any infections other than HCV.

Section 4. Consent.

17. John was tested for infection without his knowledge or consent. In 1987 John received a letter from Dr Wensley that "we are pleased to tell you that your re-test for HIV has returned negative". I remember John being incredulous when he called me over to read the content of that letter to me. John never knew he had been tested for HIV at all, let alone twice and yet the letter refers to a 're-test'.

Section 5. Impact

18. Emotionally and psychologically it was very tough on John. He was very clear that the doctors had murdered him. He knew they gave him the virus that he was dying from. It is unimaginable what he went through. He was told he had just five months to live after never being told how serious his infection was. He wouldn't see anyone but immediate family and his best friend. My son was

abroad. He called every day never knowing when his father was going to die. I used to say to my son that it was like being in Auschwitz but with home comforts around us.

19. John was a very quiet, stoic person. Being ill with haemophilia all his life he didn't complain about things. He was used to being sick and just got on with it. He ran his own business as a black cab taxi driver and could not afford not to be in work. John put his work first, relying on his doctors to do the right thing by him in terms of his care. He had no time for himself. One of his biggest regrets was the time he put into his working life. We never went on holiday or anything. We did not know that time was against us.

20. When Dr Hay informed us that John had liver cancer from HCV, my sister began researching the virus. My sister was very worried about me. My mother was very shocked and upset by John's diagnosis and she too became very worried about me and whether I might be or become cross infected with HCV.

21. After John died I decided to be tested for HCV. It was really hard for me to do this and the worry of it took a toll on me mentally. It took me approximately three years to pluck up the courage. I tested negative. The wait was horrible.

22. It affected me so much mentally. I didn't resort to alcohol or anything but it sent me potty in the sense I lost the ability to think things through and reason. When I took early retirement on compassionate grounds my pension income was approximately one fifth of what I was used to earning as a Deputy Head. Moreover my husband's income was lost to us. I was in free fall from the shock of everything. After he died, I was worried about my outgoings and I took out a mortgage. It was so unlike me and was not something I would have done if I was in the right state of mind. I had to return to work and continue to work as a supply teacher until I turned 70 as I had taken out a bogus 30 year loan and

ended up paying an extortionate amount in interest on the loan on top of the mortgage. The only alternative (as I was told) was to sell the house. I could not bear to lose our family home on top of the loss of John and I had to work hard very late in life to try to repay the loan. I would never have made unwise financial decisions previously.

23. GRO-C I have been caring for my mother and daughter both severely affected by John's death. My daughter GRO-C GRO-C is terrified that something is going to happen to me to the extent that I have kept a lot of my own health issues from her. The stress and strain has resulted in my own health breaking down in January 2017. I now have thrombosis.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

24. Both myself and husband were completely failed by medical staff. They didn't care about anything other than covering things up.

25. They should not have let me nurse John like that considering the danger I was in. They should have offered me support or at least give me information that could have let me protect myself. I was left on my own in this situation with an elderly mum, daughter and grandson coming over regularly. They could have also been infected.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

26. When John died I didn't know about any financial help from any of the Trusts and Funds. Nobody told me where to go for help. No one told me that I could have applied for help with the funeral. I later found out that the Skipton Trust and Caxton Foundations would consider a claim once they had a reference number for me and they sent me forms to take to Dr Hay. I received funds for some of

the furniture destroyed but was told that they could not pay the funeral expenses retrospectively even though I was asked for a receipt.

27. I have received Stage 1 and Stage 2 Skipton Fund payments but I am now excluded from any monthly income payments because my old age pension and my teachers pension total more than £1,500. It feels unjust because I worked so hard all my life to earn what I had and feel like I am punished for it.

Section 8. Other Issues

28. There are no other issues.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

29. I do not wish to be anonymous and understand that my Statement will be published on the Inquiry website. I would not be able to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed...

Dated..