

**Witness Name:** Gunilla Hellqvist

**Statement No:** WITN4652001

**Exhibits:** Nil

**Dated:** 15 October 2020

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GUNILLA HELLQVIST**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 19 August 2020.

I, Gunilla Hellqvist, will say as follows: -

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

1. My name is Gunilla Hellqvist ("Paynter"). My date of birth is GRO-C 1966. I reside at GRO-C Sweden. I married my ex-husband Nigel Craig Paynter ("Nigel") in 2002 in Sweden, and we have two children, Paul and Jamie, aged 21 and 17 respectively. I am currently employed at Gothenburg Airport, Gothenburg, Sweden.
2. I intend to speak about Nigel's infection with Hepatitis C ("HCV"), after I had learnt retrospectively that he was infected as a result of a blood transfusion he had received. This was during an operation to remove his tonsils when he was a child at the age of around six or seven years old. In particular, the

nature of how he had learnt about his infection, how the illness had affected him and our family thereafter, and the treatment he had received. His date of birth is GRO-C 1971, and his date of death is 28 October 2019.

3. I can confirm that I have chosen not to have legal representation and that the Inquiry Investigator has explained the anonymity process to me. I am not seeking anonymity as I wish for my story to be known in full.
4. The Inquiry Investigator has explained to me the 'Right to Reply' procedure, and I understand that if I am critical of a medical professional or organisation, they will have the right to reply to that criticism.
5. I wish to acknowledge that naturally as time passes, memories can fade. I have been able to provide approximate timeframes for matters based on life events. However, these timeframes should be accepted as 'near to' rather than precise dates.
6. My mother tongue is Swedish; I am also fluent in English and am able to read and write in that language.
7. I have constructed this statement without access to Nigel's medical records. Jamie was present throughout my interview, we decided this would be for the best, that said having to speak about some of the events and my feelings has been difficult to do in his presence and also, difficult for him to hear and also too see his mother upset.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

8. As far as I am aware, I believe that at the age of around six or seven years old Nigel was given a blood transfusion after an operation to remove his tonsils at Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, Treliske, Cornwall ("Truro Hospital"). It is this

blood transfusion, he received, as treatment for blood lost after the surgery, which I was led to believe was the cause of his HCV infection.

9. I do not know any other facts surrounding the circumstances in which Nigel was infected, other than that the blood transfusion in question contained contaminated blood or product.
10. I cannot comment on whether information or advice was provided to either Nigel or his parents surrounding the risks associated with being exposed to infection as a result of receiving a blood transfusion. I did not know Nigel at this time, as he was only a child. This was an issue we never really discussed.
11. I met Nigel in July 1998, when myself and one of my friends went on a summer holiday to St Ives, Cornwall. One night, we decided to go to a disco for a night out, when I noticed Nigel out of the corner of my eye, he was working at the disco at the time as a doorman responsible for taking cash upon arrival. As soon as I saw his big brown eyes it was love at first sight and we were inseparable.
12. From that moment on, we spent a lot of time together. When I was due to go back home to Sweden, I decided that I did not wish to leave Cornwall, so I rebooked my plane ticket so that I could stay longer. I stayed an extra week before returning home. Nigel came to visit me in Sweden the following month.
13. During his visit, I fell pregnant with my first son Paul. This was such a shock for us both, it took me around a week after I had found out to summon the courage to tell my mother I thought that she would be so cross with me, but instead, she was delighted and happy for us both.
14. After a few weeks, we had both decided that we wanted to live in GRO-C, Cornwall, so we moved in with Nigel's sister Caron's (W4527). I immediately started employment at H Tempest Ltd within the photography laboratory. It was really tough. I worked seven days a week in the beginning, to try to save

as much money as we could to buy our own house. This was never achievable and we did not buy a house of our own in England.

15. It didn't help that Nigel would get paid on a Friday afternoon. His wages would be in a brown envelope and he would go down the pub and spend his earnings, on several occasions he would return home and there would be nothing left.
16. On GRO-C 1999, my first son Paul was born at Truro hospital. From the moment I was admitted to the hospital, it was not a pleasant experience as they had treated me as if I was an alien. I felt like they did not want to talk to me or answer my questions. Paul was jaundiced and they wanted to keep us in, whereas I wanted so much to get out of the hospital as quickly as I could and take Paul home with me.
17. After I gave birth to Paul, myself, Paul and Nigel moved into Nigel's mother's house, Margaret (**W4689**), and I continued to work. Myself and Caron came to a childcare arrangement where she would work evenings and I would work days. This would ensure that there was always someone at home to look after both Paul and Caron's son Henry.
18. In Spring 2001, I was given the opportunity to move back to Sweden, where I could go back to my old job working at Gothenburg Airport. It was such an easy decision for both Nigel and myself at the time, as we were both struggling financially working in the United Kingdom. We had both worked extremely long hours to provide for our family, so when we were given this opportunity, we jumped at it.
19. In Sweden, Nigel started a language course to learn Swedish. He then got a job through a colleague of mine as a removals man.
20. During our relationship I had noticed that Nigel was consistently tired, he had no energy and was also starting to have dizzy spells. So in 2001, I told him that he should go and see the doctor at his local Clinic in GRO-C Sweden.

21. When Nigel visited his local clinic, the doctor had run tests for the presence of diabetes. Once the test results had returned, Nigel went to visit the Doctor at our local Clinic. It was then he was told that it was HCV.
22. He returned home and told me that he did not have diabetes, but instead, he had contracted HCV. At the time, neither myself or Nigel knew what HCV was or that it even existed. I knew what HAV and HBA was, as it was something you could contract whilst on holiday and get easily treatment for. We carried out research into his HCV diagnosis thereafter.
23. Nigel did not take the news of his diagnosis well. He did however realise a number of things as a result. This included why he was always so tired and became dizzy.
24. In October 2001, Nigel had regularly started to go to the Clinic for a check-up appointment. They were very helpful.
25. I cannot pass comment on what information was provided to Nigel about his HCV infection, other than that he had tested positive for the presence of HCV. I also cannot say whether this information was considered adequate, for him to understand and manage his infection.
26. After Nigel's diagnosis, I decided that Nigel, Paul, and myself would all implement safety mechanisms. I also decided that we would have to practice safe sex and use a condom. As the boys grew older I explained the importance of any blood-to-blood contact and general hygiene.
27. GRO-C myself were tested for the presence of HCV, fortunately our tests were negative. From thereon in we would all get tested every six months beyond this point.
28. I do believe that information surrounding Nigel's HCV should have been provided at an earlier point. When myself and Nigel were living in GRO-C,

Cornwall after Paul was born, I can distinctly remember having seen Nigel's medical records. Contained within this, there was a document which appeared to be his doctors notes which had stated something along the lines of "do not tell patient about his blood." We never got to the bottom of this but I do think they knew, why would this be written?

29. I cannot recollect how or where Nigel obtained access to his medical records, but this statement outlined in his records made us both so angry. It was as if they were trying to cover up any sense of wrongdoing with regards to their knowledge of the use of contaminated blood within the blood transfusion and that Nigel had contracted HCV as a result of this blood.

30. Despite practicing safe sex on GRO-C 2003, I gave birth to our youngest son, Jamie Paynter (**W4669**).

31. Shortly after Nigel's HCV diagnosis, we found out that his liver had been damaged to the extent that he required a liver transplant. Looking back at his life now, he had, for the majority of his years been unaware that he was infected with HCV. As a result he had not abstained from alcohol, in fact the opposite, he had been and for sometime even after the transplant remained a heavy drinker,

32. He had undergone a liver biopsy, which identified that his liver was in such a bad condition and it had gone too far to be repaired. He was placed on a waiting list to receive a liver transplant. This news did not go down very well with Nigel. He ended up being on the waiting list for some time, 9 or 10 years.

33. Nigel became very ill. He was extremely jaundiced, he was dark yellow/brownish in colour and to be honest we were waiting for him to die.

34. I can recall that at the end of summer in August 2011, Nigel's family were over visiting us in Sweden. We were all in the garden when he received a phone call from the Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden, where he

was told that he needed to come to the Hospital immediately as a liver had become available for him. Nigel underwent his liver transplant the same day.

35. Nigel remained in hospital for around six months. This was from August 2011 until Spring 2012. During this time, I would try to visit him as often as I could. However, I was working twelve or thirteen-hour shifts at Gothenburg Airport, and had two young boys to care for, the combination of both these factors made visiting him very difficult.
36. Shortly after Nigel's transplant, we noticed that he had a large bruise along the right side of his body. I had asked Nigel about this fact, and what had happened, to which he stated that he believed that he had been dropped during his surgery.
37. After he returned home, some six months after the initial operation we noticed a large lump had developed around Nigel's stomach area. He told us that this was as a result of him being dropped during his surgery. Nigel went on to develop a huge hernia. It appeared to grow larger every day and he had to wear a corset to stop it popping. By that I mean bursting open.
38. In the summer of 2012, Nigel and myself took Jamie and Paul on a family holiday to Mallorca, Spain. We stayed in a nice hotel. Two nights before we were due to fly back to Sweden, Nigel and another man he had made friends with whilst on holiday decided to go for a drink in the Irish Bar which was located around the corner from our hotel.
39. Regrettably even after the transplant Nigel could not stop drinking, he did try but he couldn't stop. This was despite the advice from the hospital and my constant concerns. It made no difference.
40. Nigel did not return home that night. Around this time, he was drinking a lot on a daily basis, I had assumed that he would be drunk asleep on a bench somewhere, and would return back to the hotel when he had sobered up. Myself and the boys went down to breakfast in the hotel as normal.

41. When we were sat having breakfast, the man that Nigel had gone drinking with the night before came over to us at our table. Much to our shock, he told us that Nigel was in intensive care at Hospital General de Mallorca, Palma, Illes Balears, Spain. Initially he had been taken to a local hospital and then moved to the one in Palma.
42. Apparently, whilst at the Irish Bar, Nigel had bought a round of drinks, of which, a number of individuals had assumed that he had a lot of money. As a result, when Nigel stepped outside he was assaulted. He was kicked almost to death, and suffered a hole in his head where a woman's heel had gone into his skull.
43. On hearing this news we immediately went to the hospital. When we reached the hospital, we found that Nigel was in his bed with his arms tied down, as he was very violent at the time. He was disorientated and frustrated with being in this setting so I can only assume that he turned to violence as a means of how to deal with it. It was apparent that the hospital had no idea he was HCV.
44. This was such a distressing setting for my boys to witness their father in, and I did not want them to see what was happening. I had thought to myself what were we all doing here? I took it upon myself to make a decision to take myself and the boys back home to Sweden. We returned home as originally planned.
45. Looking back I did not know what to do in that scenario. It was a difficult decision to leave your husband in a different country and separate him from his family but I did not do this lightly. I still think I did the right thing. I was protected my children and if this had happened today, I would take the same decision.
46. Luckily, my sister-in-law and mother-in-law Caron and Margaret decided to fly out to Spain so that they could be with Nigel whilst he was in hospital. This made my decision a lot easier to come to terms with.



47. Nigel remained in hospital for around one month. After this, he was flown back to Sweden where he was admitted straight into Sahlgrenska hospital for further treatment.
48. I spoke with a solicitor and unfortunately didn't get anywhere, the Spanish police showed no interest in investigating the assault. This prevented any form of compensation being paid to us; fortunately we had holiday insurance, which covered the hospital treatment and his flight back home.
49. Once Nigel was discharged from hospital in Sweden, his attitude towards life had taken a turn for the worse. I can distinctly remember a conversation we had, of which he had stated something along the lines of "It is only about me now. I am not going to bother with anyone else." I thought to myself how could he be so selfish. For him to be a father, and no longer wish to focus on helping to bring our two boys up, he was such a selfish father. He would always think of himself first before anyone else.
50. This was the last straw for me. Although Nigel was in recovery, I had told him that I was going to leave him. He was no longer the man I fell in love with and I did not want to be with him anymore. I did this for the sake of my two boys and myself.
51. Myself and my two boys moved out of the family home and into a flat in GRO-C, Sweden. We had separated and divorced in 2013.
52. After our separation, Nigel turned to drugs and his alcohol consumption increased. I suppose this was his pain management for his hernia, and a way of dealing with or numbing his current state of mind. He did not want to take anti-depressants so I can only assume this was his alternative.
53. Paul had always been close to his father and would visit him frequently at our old family home. At first I didn't know what was going on there, eventually I

learnt that a number of teenagers had moved in and this was such a shock. I did not know what to do. Paul would have been 12 or 13.

54. I can recall one day, Jamie and myself were supposed to meet with Paul. GRO-C

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55. After this, it is my belief that Nigel was a bad influence on Paul. GRO-C

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56. GRO-C

GRO-C

Nigel

and his friends would have house parties daily. In the end, they had damaged our neighbour's car, and totally trashed our house. They wrecked everything in their sight. The walls, the floors, everything.

57. I tried to maintain some normality, we had an agreement that Nigel would come to our flat and eat on a daily basis. However, I would always struggle to get him to leave. It often turned sour and he would become extremely angry quickly.

58. Ever since Nigel had been diagnosed with HCV in 2001, he was always so angry and agitated at everything. He would switch so quickly, and it was as if the world owed him for his HCV.

GRO-C

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GRO-C

62. My memory is a little hazy on this as it was so traumatic and I have tried to blank it out.

GRO-C

GRO-C

63. After the point of Nigel's liver transplant, although he appeared to get better both physically and mentally, this was short lived. It became so difficult to even have a simply conversation with him as he was always either drunk or stoned from smoking Cannabis. It was such self-destructive behaviour.

64. Looking back there were several similar incidents relating to Nigel's erratic behaviour, on one occasion he came to the flat when my sister and her partner were visiting, he started hitting the car they had arrived in with a pool cue, we refused to let him in. It got so bad that I eventually asked for sole custody of the boys, which I was granted by the court.

65. Enough was enough. I decided that I would use my inheritance money from my parents to redecorate and repair our family home to the standard that I could resell it. Once it was sold, myself and the two boys moved to Sweden.

GRO-C

66. The sale of the house just about covered the cost of what we had originally paid; however, I had had to spend this inheritance to bring it up to a saleable standard. This in effect took all my money to break even on the sale.

67. Nigel got help from a woman who looked after his financial affairs. She took on the responsibility of sorting out his bills, debts and other matters. In the end, she took so much control over Nigel's affairs that our family had started to notice. I can remember that Jamie had told Nigel that this lady was taking too much control, of which she overheard. After this, she told Nigel that she should no longer talk to us and blamed Jamie for interfering. She even told Nigel to stay away from his family.
68. In 2018, I married my current husband. He is a very jealous man and he did not like the relationship between Nigel and myself. We were still very close despite our divorce. We had two boys together so we had to have a great deal of contact. However, to respect my husband's wishes, I decided to have minimal contact with Nigel.
69. In 2019, myself and Nigel had started to talk a lot more, where we would discuss the boys. That was such a comfort for me. He had stopped his drinking, and turned to simply smoking cannabis and taking his prescribed medicine. He had said this made his head a lot clearer and that was enough for him with regards to managing his pain and his mental health.
70. In April 2019, Nigel decided to move back to Cornwall, England, so that he could live near his family. He was so much happier as I know how much he loved the sea and his friends. My sister-in-law Tracey found a flat for Nigel to live. He remained in contact with myself and the boys regularly.
71. In October 2019, I can remember receiving a telephone call from Nigel. He had told me that he had been taken ill and was currently in Truro Hospital receiving treatment. I had thought that due to Nigel's rocky history with regards to his health, he would make a full recovery and be discharged from the hospital.
72. However, a couple of days later, on Sunday 27 October 2019, I received a telephone call from Caron, who had said something along the lines of "you

need to get over here, as we think Nigel is dying." This was such a shock. I told both the boys immediately about their father's health.

73. The boys and myself took the next flight we could get on from Sweden to Bristol Airport. As it was a last-minute flight the airfares were extortionate. I had to pay by credit card, however at that point it was just essential that we got there as quickly as we could.

74. We arrived in the United Kingdom on the evening of 28 October 2019, of which, by that time Nigel had already passed. This was such a devastating time for us all and for us not to say goodbye to Nigel before he died was the hardest part for us to come to terms with.

75. Myself and our two sons stayed in the United Kingdom for around a month after Nigel's death. There was a delay with Nigel's funeral as they had undergone an Inquest into the circumstances surrounding his death.

76. Looking back, there was something strange with regards to the cause of Nigel's death. With all the contact he had with the medical profession before his death, it cannot be right that they did not realise that there was a problem with his heart. How could they miss this fact? It was awful. I feel totally let down.

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

77. I do not believe that Nigel had received any other infection or infections other than HCV as a result of being given infected blood.

78. I cannot say for certain whether he had been tested for the presence of any other infections in the past.

#### **Section 4. Consent**

79. I cannot pass comment on whether fully informed consent was provided when Nigel had received testing for treatment, either before the point at which he was diagnosed, or after this time.

80. I can only assume that when Nigel was growing up, his mum Margaret or father David (**W4687**) would have provided consent for these purposes. However, I cannot state this as fact.

81. I also cannot say whether Nigel would have been given adequate and full information when treatment or testing was being carried out.

#### **Section 5. Impact.**

##### **Mental/Physical Effect.**

82. Nigel's HCV had a great impact on him physically. For as long as I have known him, he has always been so tired, to the point at which it affected his everyday life. Also, when the boys were growing up, he was unable to do the little things any family usually takes for granted on a day-to-day basis. He was unable to play football with them, take them on days out, or even get them ready for school in the morning. I had to take on these responsibilities, which added to the strain of our marriage.

83. Alongside this, Nigel's HCV had caused a great deal of damage to the condition of his liver, to the point at which it was irreparable. He had to undergo a liver transplant as a result.

84. Mentally, Nigel's infection turned him from the once happy go lucky man who and had a heart of gold and got on with everyone, to a man who was constantly angry and violent. I can only describe his behaviour as if he thought that the world was against him. After Nigel's liver transplant, for a short period of time it was as if he was a totally different person.
85. As much as it was great to see him this way, at the same time I felt very lonely. My family did not understand why I felt this way or understand my position. It had dawned on me that I had been on my own for years and years. I was often off sick with exhaustion due to how hard I had worked. I was struggling to provide for my family. I had to power through as that it was you do as a mother. To this day, I am still struggling with exhaustion.
86. Jamie and Paul were often left to fend for themselves; for example, I worked such long hours starting as early as 5am, Nigel would be asleep and they would have to get themselves ready for school.
87. On a daily basis I would ring home to make sure that they were up, had breakfast and were on their way to school. When Jamie was young, there were occasions when I had to take him to work with me, this wasn't really allowed as he was not permitted to go airside, I was left no choice as Nigel was not able to care for him.
88. Nigel's declining mental health caused him to turn to the use of alcohol and drugs such as Cannabis and Spice, to dull out his pain and mental fog. He accused me of having given him HCV through our sexual and marital relationship. He never said sorry for this, despite him knowing in the back of his mind that it was contaminated blood which caused his HCV.
89. This just goes to show just how much of an effect his infection had caused. It was a complete 180 degrees flip in his behaviour. I no longer recognised my husband and that was hard to come to terms with.

## Treatment

90. Before Nigel's liver transplant in 2011, he had started treatment for his HCV with Interferon at Ostra hospital, Gothenburg. He would inject himself once a week. However, after a short period of time, he experienced such strong side effects such as persistent tiredness and nausea that he could no longer carry on with his treatment. His body could not take it and he was unable to work.
91. Apart from the fact that Nigel did not complete his treatment with Interferon, I do not believe that Nigel faced any difficulties or obstacles in accessing such treatment. If he did, then I was not made aware of this fact.
92. I cannot pass comment on whether I believe that treatment for Nigel's HCV should have been provided an earlier point in time. As far as I am led to believe, he received treatment as soon as it had become available.

## Impact

93. As far as I am aware, I do not believe that Nigel's HCV status had an impact upon his treatment, medical and/or dental care for any other conditions.
94. His infection affected him physically and mentally; it also affected us as a couple and as a family. We started off our life together with high hopes and for a short period we were happy. However as soon as Nigel was diagnosed it became such a struggle and it completely changed for us. He treated me as though I had always had to do everything for him.
95. On reflection, all throughout life it has been hard both mentally, physically, and financially. It was a struggle. My mother and father taught me that as a couple, you struggle, but you keep fighting. However, if I am totally honest, I think back now and wonder whether if Paul had not been conceived, then I would have probably left Nigel there and then after a short period of time. It was soon apparent that he was such a difficult person to live.



96. It was as if I was simply left at home with Paul to care for him and that was my life. I was just a mother and a nurse to Nigel.

97. Our family finances were always difficult, it didn't help that not long after we had moved to Sweden Nigel had to give up work as a result of his persistent tiredness, and his overall ill health. He was unable to carry out his work due to his fatigue affecting his ability to manually lift heavy objects. I was left to provide for and support our family.

98. I found it difficult to cope with how things had turned out for us. I developed a coping mechanism where I would push all the bad thoughts to the back of my mind. It seemed to work, but I do not know whether it was simply distracted by my hectic life which had caused the bad thoughts to go away.

GRO-C

100. This is very upsetting for me to say but it's important for you to understand how this HCV infection affected me.

GRO-C

GRO-C

GRO-C

It totally ruined us.

101. I have always wanted to be a blood donor here in Sweden, but I have never been allowed. Despite me showing proof to the Blood Services that I have never tested positive for the presence of HCV I am still not permitted. It is so humiliating.

102. Both Paul and Jamie have been affected by their father's illness and how it manifested itself. In particular, how Nigel treated them as individuals. I will speak about Paul, as he is unable to do so for himself.

103. Prior to our meeting, Jamie (**WITN4669**) and I discussed whether he should speak with you and he has told me he wants to make a statement. I have agreed that he can do so. Jamie has provided an account contained within his witness statement (**WITN4669001**), of how his father's HCV had impacted on his life, in particular his fathers behaviour and the way he treated Jamie.

104. As far as Paul is concerned, he is no longer the son I knew. He cannot live with us anymore and I worry about him constantly. I believe what he witnessed as a young boy with regards to his fathers' infection and how his physical and mental health deteriorated, took its toll. He was far too young to see and do the things he was doing.

GRO-C

GRO-C

107. In the end, it was not until Paul had run away from home that he finally received help.

GRO-C

GRO-C

GRO-C

109. I was told that I had to stay at home with Paul, I was not able to work for three years, this was really hard and I racked up debts which I am still paying off.

GRO-C

GRO-C

112. Although his GRO-C appears to have gone away, he will never return back to the person he once was, our Paul. You cannot talk to him anymore, and it is difficult to witness your son in this way. He always rings me and asks the same questions such as when can he come home. It is as if he forgets then asks me the same questions regularly. I tell him things such as "I love you", he always replies with "thank you."

GRO-C

114. As I said earlier, Jamie will be making his own statement, however I do want to state the following. Jamie had a difficult relationship with his father, I could see Jamie desperately wanted his fathers love but it was not forthcoming.

115. As a result of the aggressive behaviour Nigel developed after his diagnosis he would punish the boys, In particular Jamie. He would bear the brunt of his anger. Sometimes, Jamie would be put under a cold shower for long periods of time. This was horrible to see but I was too scared to say anything.
116. The stigma associated with Nigel's HCV diagnosis had a great impact on him and our family. We lived in a small town in Sweden where everyone knew each other's business. Someone within our community had learnt about Nigel's infective status and treated us all so differently from that point. My son Jamie was bullied at school because of his father.
117. Nigel's HCV did not have an education effect on myself, but it did on our two boys. They both had learning difficulties, so the added strain of witnessing their father's health deteriorate did not help

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

118. As previously stated, I do not believe that Nigel faced any difficulties or obstacles in obtaining treatment, care and support in consequence of being infected with HCV. If he did, then I was not made aware of this fact.
119. Nigel did receive counselling as a result of his HCV diagnosis. It appeared to be some benefit to him.
120. As a result of both Nigel's HCV infection and his death, myself and Jamie received counselling. I also received counselling as a result of my exhaustion from working too hard.

## **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

121. As far as I can recall, as a result of having received infected blood when he was a child, Nigel received a lump sum of money from both the Skipton Fund and the Caxton Fund. Alongside this, he received a monthly payment from the Skipton Fund. I was not made aware of the exact amount of money he received.
122. I am not aware of the details surrounding the process in which Nigel had gone through to obtain his financial assistance.
123. I am not aware of any problems he had faced as a result of applying for financial assistance. However, I am aware it did take some time.
124. When Nigel received his financial assistance, this money did help us a lot financially, However, not long after this, as Nigel had no sense of money or savings, he had spent the money he had received on himself. He would buy things such as trains, cars, and Scalextrics'. He just kept spending and spending. This left myself to carry on being the sole provider for our family and to struggle financially.
125. Myself or my family did not receive any financial assistance after Nigel's death. This would have helped us all so much as I was always struggling to provide what our family needed on a daily basis.

## **Section 8. Other Issues**

126. I believe that it was Nigel's right to know about his infection as soon as the medical profession had become aware of it. From the point at which he was infected around the age of six or seven years old, until he was diagnosed

in 2001, he could have easily transmitted his infection to other people without knowing, which meant it could have ended up a lot worse.

127. The fact that the Government and the medical profession knew about the presence of contaminated blood within the blood donor system, and knew that Nigel had contracted HCV as a result is criminal. I have to ask the question was his illness covered up?

128. I want to make the persons who were involved in Nigel's HCV infection realise the consequences of their actions. It has had such a great impact on us as a family. I can state without fear of any contradiction that Nigel's infection ruined his life and in turn our lives together. My boys will now have to live without a father and I lost my husband well before he died. I do not know what the future has in store for my two boys. This is very sad.

#### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

15 10 2015