

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KEITH WILLIAM LLOYD

I, Keith William Lloyd, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Keith William Lloyd of GRO-C. My date of birth is GRO-C 1960. I am married to Tracy who has also provided a witness statement to the Public Inquiry. I am currently not working due to ill health.
2. I was infected with Hepatitis C via my treatment with contaminated Factor VIII concentrates.
3. **This statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my medical records.**

Section 2. How Infected

4. I have mild Haemophilia A and receive Factor VIII concentrates on a regular basis; my first treatment took place at aged 15.
5. I attend the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne for treatment. My consultant at the time of infection was Dr Jones and my current consultant is Dr Talks.

6. I was given no information in relation to the risks of infection from Factor VIII concentrates. I contracted Hepatitis C as a result of receiving Factor VIII concentrates but I don't know the exact date on which I was infected.
7. I was told by Dr Jones at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, in or around 1991, that I was infected with Hepatitis C. This news was conveyed to me in a very matter of fact manner. I was not given any information about how to manage the infection or what the infection would mean to me, in real terms. Dr Jones specifically advised me that Hepatitis C could **not** be transmitted sexually but he did tell me that I must not share toothbrushes and to ensure that I cleared up any blood spillages.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I received a letter in the 2000s advising that I had been put at risk of vCJD.
9. I am not sure whether I have been exposed to any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

10. I believe that I may have been tested for various viruses without my knowledge and therefore without my consent.

Section 5. Impact

11. I met my wife in 2000 and we bought a house together in 2001.
12. In 2003, my wife attended her GP due to suffering with extreme fatigue and was diagnosed with an underactive thyroid. She persevered for another 6 months or so but duly returned to her GP due to a lack of improvement in her tiredness levels. Her GP then carried out some further tests and following the results of these tests, the GP said to her "*Are you aware that you have Hepatitis C?*" My wife was in total shock because we had both religiously followed the advice of Dr Jones. She told her GP that I had Hepatitis C and he said "*Oh I see*". My wife was still shocked and it is only now that we both appreciate what he was insinuating. My wife's GP did not give her any advice about her diagnosis or how to manage the same.

13. I was utterly devastated to learn that my wife had become infected and this led to a further decline in my mental health, which had already suffered greatly due to my own infection. I very much dislike discussing my mental health but my wife would say that I became very introverted and miserable.
14. I also suffered from many physical problems as a result of my infection. I suffer from frequent chest infections and have liver damage but this has stopped short of cirrhosis.
15. I began the 48 week treatment of Interferon and Ribavirin in July 2016. I experienced horrendous side effects from this treatment. I also became increasingly fatigued and my appetite disappeared which resulted in extreme weight loss. The weekly injections which I self-administered took their toll. As a result, I had to stop working as a fitter and due to the stigma surrounding Hepatitis C, I felt unable to disclose my infection to my employer. We therefore lost one person's income, almost overnight and struggled financially.
16. Following completion of the 48 week course, I managed to clear the Hepatitis C virus. Unfortunately the side effects of the treatment have continued to this day.
17. **GRO-C** is a Haemophiliac who also contracted Hepatitis C. We are able to support each other which is a positive thing **GRO-C**
GRO-C
18. Initially I did not really open up to my wife about my infection and he I shied away from talking about it. When I was first offered the treatment for Hepatitis C I refused it. However, once I found out about my wife's infection my attitude changed somewhat. My wife was adamant that she would undergo any treatment in order to clear her virus which in turn changed my mind and led me to deciding to go ahead with the treatment.
19. We both knew that we would be very ill as a result of the treatment so we decided that I would undertake my treatment first and that my wife would commence her treatment at the end of 2007, once my treatment had been finalised.
20. We were therefore able to support each other practically, emotionally and financially throughout the treatment.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

21. I was not offered any counselling or psychiatric support when I was told that I had Hepatitis C. More recently, Dr. Talks offered me such support but I really don't want to engage.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

22. **GRO-C** advised my wife and I about the possibility of receiving financial assistance from the Skipton Fund in or around 2004. Both my wife and I received the Stage 1 Payment of £20,000 in or around 2005. We did not have any problems with the application process and we did not apply for the Stage 2 payment because neither of us had cirrhosis.
23. We were both aware that we could obtain grants from the Skipton Fund and we applied for and received help to purchase a new boiler. My wife sent off a couple of quotes and the money was paid into our bank account.
24. We both receive the winter fuel payment and initially we received £500 each. However, in or around 2014 the Skipton Fund halved our payments as they thought that because we lived together we should only get one payment to share between us. We did not challenge this decision despite the fact that we thought the decision was unfair. When the EIBSS took over, they advised that the payment of £500 each would be reinstated.
25. We both receive top up payments from the EIBSS. I receive £384 per month and my wife receives £164 per month.

Section 8. Other Issues

26. I would like answers and for those persons responsible to be held accountable. I question how Dr Jones could look his patients in the eye whilst continuing to administer contaminated blood products to them.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

27. I do not wish to apply for anonymity and I do not wish 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..... 21.10.2019