

Witness Name: Antony Smith

Statement No: WITN1522001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: January 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANTONY SMITH

I, Antony Smith, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My full name is Antony James Smith. I was born on GRO-C 1984, and I live at GRO-C.
2. My father, Raymond Christopher Smith (born on GRO-C 1953), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He died from PCP pneumonia on GRO-C 1986, aged 32.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

4. My mother and brother have provided Witness Statements to the Inquiry (Witness Statement Numbers WITN1153001-2 and WITN1711001-5 respectively). This Statement should be read in conjunction with their Statements.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father had severe Haemophilia A. He was treated at the Cambridge Haemophilia Centre at the Addenbrooke's Hospital under the care of Dr Seaman. My father was given Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate as a treatment from the mid-1970s. We think that my father would have become co-infected with HIV, HBV and HCV in or around 1984 (given my GRO-C1984 birth date). My father was informed that he was HIV positive in late 1985.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I do not think that my father was infected with anything other than HIV, HBV and HCV.

Section 4. Consent

7. My father wasn't prewarned of the risk of infection through his treatment. I refer specifically to my mother's Statement. She was with my father at a hospital appointment he attended in or around the early part of 1985. She specifically remembers being told 'not to worry' about the FVIII treatment as the problems my father had just heard about via a haemophiliac friend of his had apparently been

'blown out of proportion'. My father did not know that his blood samples had been taken to test him for the viral infections. My father's death came shortly after he was told that he was HIV positive.

Section 5. Impact

8. My father died at aged 32. I was 17 months old, and my brother was 8 years old at the time and our mother was left to bring us up on her own.
9. If the warnings our Government were given in 1983 had been acted upon, my father could have stood a chance. My father was a successful businessman with a young family. He was killed by a product that was supposed to help him. What happened to my father caused a massive break down within our family. Our lives were turned upside down as it felt as though we had just been left. I suffered growing up massively and I have spent 38 years of my life trying to understand how it was allowed to happen. I don't think anyone realises what we have been put through. We are a generation of damaged kids with a hidden secret that none of us could talk about due to the stigma created by the Government and the press to scare everyone about AIDS. I never talk about my dad as, in effect, I never had one. This has ruined my life and robbed me and my children of a dad and grandad.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

10. I refer to my mother and brother's Statements. I wasn't offered any counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

11. I refer to my mother and brother's Statements.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

12. I do not wish to remain anonymous, and I understand that this Statement will be published by the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... GRO-C.....

Dated..... 13/01/2023.....