Witness Name: Malcolm Coldrick
Statement No.: WITN2694001
Exhibits: WITN2694002 – WITN2694003
Dated: 12/09/2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MALCOLM COLDRICK

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Malcolm Coldrick, my date of birth is GRO-C 1959 and my address is known to the Inquiry.

2. I married my wife, Karen, 10 years ago. My wife is my carer and I do not work for medical reasons.

3. I intend to talk about my infection with hepatitis C, the treatment I received and the impact it has had on my life. As a result of a head injury I suffered in 1987, it is sometimes difficult for me to recall certain events, especially those which happened immediately after the accident.

Section 2. How infected

4. In 1987 I was beaten up by six lads and was badly injured. I was taken to the Wythenshawe Hospital by the police and I gave my name and address to the staff. It is my understanding that I lost consciousness and didn't wake up for about 6 weeks. During that time I had an operation on my skull, and then I was put on a machine for the rest of the time. When I woke up they tried to explain what they had done, they said there had been a really bad clot on the upper right side of my brain, and a minor one on the left side. At the time, I couldn't walk, talk or take all of this in. The account set out in my medical records differs to my recollection. The records state that the attack happened on 6 August 1987 and I was transferred to the Manchester Royal Infirmary on 7 August before being transferred back to Wythenshawe on 17 August. My records suggest that I was discharged on 20 August but readmitted on 1 September for 48 hours. However it is my belief that I was unconscious for about six weeks before waking up.

5. My brother came to visit after I had woken up and he explained to me how much blood they had given me during the operation. Apparently it had shocked him, he didn't know so much was needed for a head injury. It is my understanding from what he said that he had been told that I had been given several units of blood. However my hospital notes do not include a record showing I had a blood transfusion despite numerous references to a major head trauma.

6. After that I went to the Younger Disabled Unit at the Withington Hospital and this is where I learnt to walk, talk, dress and wash myself. I was basically like a young baby being taught how to do things again. I remember being there for 18-24 months however my medical records suggest this stay was for 7 weeks from January 1988, and that I then returned for a further few weeks from 18 July 1988.

7. As I recall, whilst I was in the unit I started noticing bruises all over my body. I couldn't figure out what it was so I went to see one of the blood doctors, Dr Taberner, who gave me some blood tests. I was first diagnosed with lupus, but then informed it was von Willebrand's disease.

8. When I asked Dr Taberner about the bruises I was covered in all over my arms, legs and whole body, I asked where they had come from and the words he used were, 'well you did have a blood transfusion with your head injury'. He never in all the time I was his patient mentioned there was something wrong with the blood. He just explained that those with blood complaints were given Factor 8.

9. My medical records are at odds with my recollection and suggest that my first contact with Dr Taberner was not until 1991. My medical records suggest that I was originally given desmopressin (DDAVP) from the spring of 1991, and that after October 1991 I was given Factor 8. They also suggest I was originally diagnosed with painful bruising syndrome prior to my diagnosis of von Willebrand's disease rather than lupus.

10. As I remember it, Dr Taberner told me I needed Factor 8 for my blood, at first it started with a small amount each week but eventually increased to nine bottles a week. I have exhibited a note from my medical records which refers to the doctors increasing the amount of Factor 8 I was given in January 1992 [**WITN2694002**]. He would perform tests when he saw me, such as a small jab in the finger to see how quickly my blood clotted. I was told to carry a little card around with me all the time, which I would need to show when I was having a tooth out or having an operation so that I could be provided with more Factor 8. I remember that once I started treatment the bruises lessened but they didn't completely go away. I remember being given so much Factor 8 that my brothers and I joked I had more of it in my body than blood. I have exhibited alongside my statement a photo of old bottles of Factor 8 I was given. They are bottles of BPL product which I had completely forgotten about but were kept upstairs [**WITN2694003**].

11. I believe this treatment continued for a number of years. Over this time I was often ill, I seemed to pick everything up, and I always had a cold. I went back to

Dr Taberner and asked him if I should be worried about this, but he said I was fine and the Factor 8 was helping me.

12. One day, I remember going to the haematology department to get some syringes and to see Dr Taberner. I cannot remember when this was but he told me I needed to stop taking factor 8, and he put me on a different drug. I don't think he told me the name of it. I was quite confused; he never gave me a reason for this decision. I remember being given three or four bags and I could feel my blood pressure going sky high. I went to wash my hands afterwards and my face was bright red in the mirror – I said to Dr Taberner I don't think I'm too good on this but he said I would be fine.

13. After talking to my brothers about this sometime later I tried to make an appointment with Dr Taberner to find out more about the reason my treatment had been changed. I was told he had retired. I tried to talk to someone else about Factor 8 and about how much I had been given, but they said to forget about it because I was now on Desmopressin.

14. My medical records suggest that I was seeing Dr Taberner until December 1996 and I continued to use Factor 8 until the early 2000s where I was transferred over to Desmopressin.

15. At a later date, which I can't remember exactly, I walked into the haematology department and was told that I would need to attend a different clinic for my regular appointments. I didn't hear anything for about 12 months but eventually was told to go to the Manchester Royal Infirmary for check-ups.

16. During my first appointment at Manchester Royal Infirmary, I tried to explain that I had previously been on Factor 8 and he said that hadn't happened! I asked whether I had a bleeding disorder, they said I did but I only needed desmopressin before an operation or when I needed a tooth out. Since then I have been given desmopressin a number of times: when I had three of my teeth out, when I had an operation on my stomach and when I had an operation on a broken finger.

When I go to the hospital I have to hand my card over and then they can discuss how much they need to give me.

17. To this day I am very confused about why Dr Taberner left so quickly and why my treatment was changed from factor 8 to desmopressin.

18. I was not told about the risks of transmission of viruses via blood products until I was diagnosed with hepatitis C. I thought it was a rare occurrence until my brother read a newspaper and saw an article on how wide-spread the tragedy was. When Dr Taberner diagnosed me with hepatitis C, he did ask my two brothers to come in for a blood test. Both of the tests came back negative. I don't remember a specific conversation about transmission of hepatitis. I don't think satisfactory information was provided to me although at the time I was more concerned about the head injury.

Section 3. Other Infections

19. I was tested for HIV and this came back negative. I was infected with hepatitis C only.

Section 4. Consent

20. When I had brain surgery in 1987 it was an emergency situation and I had to have the blood. I was unable to provide consent. I do not think I was given full information about the risks after I had woken up.

21. I provided consent for being given Factor 8 however the full information was not provided to me. Dr Taberner never explained the risks of receiving the blood product. Dr Taberner just kept giving me more and more Factor 8, to the point it was getting ridiculous. If I went away on holiday I had to take it all with me, with a letter in case I got stopped by customs. At first the bruising went down but it came back and I think that's why they kept increasing the amount. My

understanding is the more blood products they gave me the more chance there was that I would be infected.

22. Over time my thinking has become clearer. Looking back now, I would say I was used for the purposes of research. I had a friend who was a haemophiliac and he explained that he had never heard of Factor 8. Other people I discussed it with didn't know about Factor 8 when I brought it up in conversation, including one doctor at the Manchester Royal who denied that I had been given Factor 8, especially in the copious amounts I described. I was a bit of a guinea pig I think.

Section 5. Impact

23. I can't remember having many physical or mental symptoms caused by hepatitis C. Due to my head injury I struggle with my memory, my understanding is that this was especially so in the years after it happened. I do remember that I picked up illnesses very easily and often. Over the years I have had jaundice a number of times and went to hospital on each occasion.

24. At some point when I was under the care of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, I was given injections and tablets which I believe were Interferon and Ribavirin, and that I was given these as treatment for hepatitis C. A lot of the time, because of my head injury and losing some brain cells, doctors would just give me this and that. They often wouldn't explain why I was being given something so I would just go by what the doctors said.

25. My medical records do not refer to my infection with hepatitis C and they do not refer to me being given Interferon and Ribavirin. I clearly remember taking treatment for the virus. I recently went to my GP to get tested for the hepatitis C virus and antibodies however the doctors there confirmed that I was negative which is equally confusing.

26. I have had issues with my teeth, I lost a few at the back which is surprising as I have good teeth overall. I am aware this may be a side-effect of the treatment.

27. I was poorly with the treatment. Not with my head but my body, nobody ever explained that this might happen. I didn't feel right in myself. Until I went to get tested recently for hepatitis C, I didn't know whether I cleared the virus. I presume I must have done because I don't take anything for it now and the recent tests results have been negative.

28. I do take medication for depression. Twenty years ago I went to see a doctor and explained that I was low and wanted to be picked up. The doctor prescribed anti-depressants and I've been on them ever since.

29. From what I recall I have never faced any obstacles or difficulties in receiving treatment for hepatitis C. I was simply told: 'this is the treatment and you're undergoing it'. I have not faced difficulties in accessing treatment for anything else such as dentists.

30. Hepatitis C has had an impact on my private life. At the time of my diagnosis I was living with a girlfriend and I remember sex went out the window. My body didn't feel like my own. I didn't want to have sex and I had a non-existent libido. My body had felt like it changed so much, I felt like I had taken so much of the Factor 8 and I don't think it's ever gotten over that. I think my low libido was as a result of both the blood products and the infection.

31. In terms of the impact on my social life, I remember I had to take all these injections and tablets with me when I went away even if just for a day or night. It used to really frustrate me. It destroyed my life.

32. I never told anybody apart from my brothers about my Hep C infection. Around that time HIV was such a big thing and the stigma surrounding it was linked directly with hepatitis C. I questioned whether I had HIV too. I remember thinking if I was infected with HIV it would mentally destroy me – people were dying of it. In the end I went to the hospital and asked if I could have a HIV test, explaining that I had been given so much Factor 8 over the years. I had to fill in a lot of forms before the test but thankfully it came back clear.

33. It does get me down when I'm sitting on my own thinking about what I wanted to do in life and where I wanted to go. I had been to college and got my BTEC in mechanical engineering. I was an engineer working on aircraft machinery for the navy. I have not worked since I was 27 and it frustrates me. I have received some financial support from the government but I am in debt with certain things here and there. I had been hoping to apply to EIBSS but a successful application seems unlikely now due to the issues with my medical records.

34. I have a daughter and I used to see her once a week but my ex-wife said I had changed completely and she didn't want me to see her because it was frightening. I don't know whether this was as a result of the head injury or the hepatitis treatment – possibly a mixture of both. I remember I was very moody because of everything that had happened: from my head injury in 1987 to my subsequent diagnosis with von Willebrand's disease in the same year, followed by my diagnosis with hepatitis C a few years later.

35. It has not been an easy road, with the head injury and the bleeding disorder. It was all made worse with my diagnosis of hepatitis C.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

36. I was referred to see a psychologist in relation to my head injury. I was having appointments with her when I found out about my infection and I am very thankful for that. We discussed the problems caused by me having von Willebrand's as well as my diagnosis of hepatitis C. All those injections I went for really used to get me down and she was very helpful to talk to. She was a really good psychologist.

37. Apart from that I haven't seen anyone else. My wife is very good to talk to though, we have conversations and she keeps me on the right track.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

38. After review of my medical records, it seems unlikely that an application to EIBSS would be successful because my diagnosis of hepatitis C was not recorded and the medical records suggest that I did not receive Factor 8 until October 1991. Nor do they reflect the blood transfusion I was given in 1987 following my severe head injury. It is incredibly frustrating that my medical records seem so fragmented and different to my recollection of events. I simply do not understand how my diagnosis of hepatitis C was not recorded and I do not understand why the test came back as negative.

Section 8. Other Issues

39. Personally, I would like to know whether I should have been taking so much Factor 8 at that time and whether this was the best treatment for me. Why was the Factor 8 randomly stopped? Why was I not being prescribed desmopressin from the beginning and throughout? I would like to know whether the doctors and nurses were aware that we were being infected but didn't say anything to us. Also, neither of my brothers have von Willebrand's, why do I have it? Where did it come from? I have tried to get answers to these questions from my doctors over the years but no one has explained these things to me. As soon as I mention Factor 8 they don't want to talk to me. It all makes me very suspicious.

40. The most important thing is that we all get answers to the questions of what happened and why. I think it would be disgraceful to find out that doctors knew they were infecting us and continued to give us Factor 8 and blood transfusions anyway. I don't know whether we will ever get the truth.

41. A massive concern for myself, and I am sure for many others, is the issue with my medical records. My medical records are not complete and do not include events and treatment that I remember. For me this means that I am unlikely to be eligible for support from EIBSS. I hope this is something which the Inquiry considers in its final report and recommendations.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed ..... GRO-C

Dated 12/9/2022