

Witness Name: Michael Jamie Green

Statement No. WITN6449001

Dated: 8th October 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MICHAEL JAMIE GREEN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 13th July 2021. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, Michael Jamie Green will say as follows:-

1. **Introduction**

1. My name is Michael Jamie Green. My date of birth is GRO-C 1978 and my address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I am divorced with two children and currently work as a Domestic Housekeeper in an Alzheimer's Care Home.
3. I am a step-brother to my sister Karen Louise Hartigan from my mother's second marriage. Karen sadly passed away on GRO-C GRO-C 2021 and was infected with hepatitis C.

2. **How Affected**

1. Karen and I had a good relationship. We did not see each other on a regular basis but when we did meet, we were very glad to see each other and catch up. Both of us knew that we were there for each other if and when we were needed.
2. Although it is not known when Karen became infected with hepatitis C, I believe it was when she was involved in a motorbike accident in the 1980s. These details should be in Karen's medical notes and records but unfortunately the family are unable to check because the local Health Board were unable to find any records relating to Karen which the family find very strange.
3. I am not aware of what if any, information, or advice was provided to Karen before the transfusion(s) about the risk of infection.
4. I believe that Karen was never made aware of her hepatitis C infection, as I am sure she would have confided in my mum about this and asked her for advice. They had quite a close relationship.
5. I, along with the rest of the family did not find out about Karen's hepatitis C infection until after her death.
6. Karen had decided that on her death, her organs should be donated. It was because of this wish that her doctors were bound to inform the family that Karen's organs were unsuitable for donation because of her hepatitis C infection.
7. On or around the GRO-C 2021, Karen had been found unconscious on the stairs at home by her son Martyn. He called an ambulance and Karen was admitted to the Great Western Hospital, Swindon. Karen had suffered a brain haemorrhage. She was placed on life support and on the GRO-C the life support was withdrawn and Karen passed away.

8. The whole family were shocked at this discovery, as nobody had an inkling that Karen was carrying the hepatitis C infection.
9. I am surprised that Karen had not been informed by her GP or other medical practitioner of her hepatitis C infection since she must have attended her GP for blood tests at some point over the years.
10. I believe that Karen should have been informed of her infection and given information and advised of the risks of hepatitis C.

3. **Other infections**

1. As far as I am aware, Karen did not suffer with any other infections other than hepatitis C. However, she did have problems with her thyroid and took medication for this.

4. **Consent**

1. I am unable to comment on this section.

5. **Impact**

1. Karen used to suffer with headaches, bloating and feeling generally unwell. She would often stay in bed because she was so tired and fatigued. The family would just think that she was being lazy but now we all realise she had a good reason for resting a lot of the time. She was genuinely unwell.
2. Karen suffered a lot with bloating. Her stomach would swell until she looked pregnant. She would wear loose clothing to try to hide it. I believe that it knocked her self-confidence.
3. I would see her sometimes in town shopping. When we met, she would always need to sit down because she felt tired and fatigued.

4. Karen was an affectionate and generous person. When we met, she would hug me and give my little boy GRO-C some money for sweets. She was a very selfless person and would give anyone her last pound. She was never bothered about herself, she just wanted to make sure everyone else was okay.

5. After Karen died, I recall visiting her in the chapel of rest. It was so awful that I broke down. It made me think that I wished I had been closer to her and called her a lot more.

6. **Treatment/Care/Support**

1. I wish Karen had been diagnosed sooner and been able to obtain help and treatment.

8. **Financial Assistance**

1. Karen did not work because of her health problems, she lived on state benefits and handouts from family.

2. I cannot comment any further on this section.

8. **Other Issues**

1. I was so upset after Karen died. Unfortunately, I was not able to visit her in hospital as I was in Farringdon at the time, but now I regret not going to see her before she died.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 08/10/2022