

Witness Name: Charly Lovell
Statement No. WITN7203001

Exhibits:

Dated: October 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHARLY LOVELL

I, Charly Lovell, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Charly Lovell. I was born on [GRO-C] 1986, and I live at [GRO-C]
2. I make this Statement as the daughter of Keith Robjant (born on [GRO-C] [GRO-C] 1961) who was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) as a result of receiving contaminated blood products and or through a blood transfusion. He died on 9th January 2020.
3. This witness statement has been written without the benefit of access to my late father's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My father had severe haemophilia A. My father explained this to me when I had to step up to be his carer.
5. He was treated with Factor VIII at St Thomas' Hospital London. He also had home treatment. I remember seeing small vials of Factor VIII in the fridge at home, and there was a yellow, shard bin in the home that I was always told to stay away from. He would administer Factor VIII to himself quite frequently.
6. He was treated at St Thomas' hospital in London. He was treated there by Dr Savage and Julia Mitchel was his nurse. I believe that Dr Savage has died and Julia Mitchell is now retired. I recollect that when I was young my father was frequently in and out of hospital with bleeds into his joints.
7. I do not know how when he was infected with HCV as my mother and father did not talk about it at home. I am in the process of obtaining his medical records.
8. My elder sister Hayley Robjant believes that dad was infected before 1984, before my sister and I were born. My sister knew more about his illness then I, as she was the older, so dad would speak to her about it in more detail.

9. I do not know who told him about his infection or what information was given to him if any. My sister informed me that my dad was told he had HCV at a routine appointment but I do not know exactly how this information was conveyed to him. I do not know the exact date this would have been.
10. I do not know if they gave him any information about the risks of infection from blood products or blood transfusion.
11. I do not know if he was given any information about how to manage the infection or what treatment may be available to him.
12. I was 34 when my father passed away.
13. I was never told how HCV could be transmitted. My mother would tell me not to touch my fathers' shaving razor or to touch any of his Factor VIII needles but I was quite young so didn't know why this was. it was never explained to me.

Section 3. Other Infections

14. I do not know if my father was infected with anything other than HCV.

Section 4. Consent

15. I do not know if my father was treated or tested without his knowledge or consent or without being given adequate or full information.

Section 5. Impact

16. I recollect my father being very depressed a lot of the time and although, he had counselling for a while he continued to be withdrawn. I think the effects of haemophilia played a role in his depression but in my view his HCV greatly contributed to his depression as it meant he couldn't be a normal dad. He couldn't play with his children and later, with his grandchildren when we were growing up.
17. I assume I was very young when dad was infected but I always understood that he was an ill man. We wouldn't go to the park very often as he couldn't run and would get tired very quickly, even just from walking.
18. My father wasn't very engaged as a parent when I was growing up. I assume it was because of the HCV that he didn't want to risk making me or my sister sick too but I don't know for certain what toll the illness took on him.
19. Most of the time we would sit together around the house. He was very lethargic and he looked grey, with very thin skin. He had no colour to him. I didn't really notice this until I was older and realised just how sick he was I also began to notice his appearance. When I was younger he was just dad.
20. I remember my father had a heart attack and also needed to have a liver transplant. I recollect getting a call in the middle of the night to say that a liver was available and the transplant could go ahead. I went with him to

hospital. I believe the Liver transplant was in or about 2008. and the heart attack in 2018.

21. I do not know if he had any treatment for his HCV. My sister believes our father was offered treatment but this was around the time that my mum was going through chemotherapy for her cancer. We assume he refused the treatment as he didn't know how the treatment would affect him and he needed to be able to look after my mum and us children.
22. If my mum had not had cancer I think he would have taken the treatment. The liver transplant helped but he was still on dialysis and it only gave him a few more years of life and my mum died around May 2005.
23. I do not know if he was treated differently due to his HCV diagnoses. I do not know if he struggled to find doctors or dentists to assist him, but I know he went mainly to St Thomas' for any issues he was having physically.
24. I have two younger siblings, a brother and sister, and after my mother's death when I was only 18 I had to take on the role of mother, as my elder sister had left home and there was no one else. I took my younger siblings to and from school and then would come home and look after my dad. My siblings were 12 and 14 at the time of my mother's death so they were a lot to take on. It was quite a responsibility.
25. I also took on all roles for my dad that my mum used to do. I eventually had to leave my work as an administration assistant so I could care for my dad as he grew sicker. This had a great financial impact on me as I had been on a good salary with my job, but then had to get by on carers allowance only.
26. I do not know what impact my dad's illness had on my mother but they clearly struggled. It is only now when I look back I realise just how hard my parents must have found it to keep dad's health a secret from us children.
27. My younger sister ended up getting into drugs and my younger brother has been to prison. I found out they did not attend school very much and both were very angry about losing their mum and their dad and this clearly had a big impact on them both growing up.
28. My older sister left the family home when my mum died in 2005. In or about 2007 the rest of us all moved out of the family home in London to Herne Bay, as we could not afford to continue living there.
29. My dad did remarry and it was at this point that I moved out. His new wife lived at another address during the week and she would go to see my dad at the weekends. At this point my younger siblings were around 18 and 20 so I didn't need to check on them as much, but I still had to check on my dad as he was alone for most of the week.
30. I would not wish what happened to me and my family on my worst enemy. Losing my mum and my dad has been very hard on me and my siblings and I would not want anyone else to have to go through this level of loss.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

31. My dad saw a counsellor for a while but I do not know how this was arranged.
32. I was never offered any sort of counselling. Nor were any of my siblings. We only found out that we could get help through the Haemophilia Society quite recently.
33. I previously had counselling but this was privately funded by me. I had to stop as the financial burden became too much. I am currently on antidepressants and am working with my GP to assess what other support they can offer me.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

34. I know that my mum and dad received some payments from the Skipton Fund but I believe this was when my mum was still alive as she would have been the one who organised most of this.
35. I know dad received monthly payments from EIBSS and I believe this was around £2300.33 a month. I think my dad's new wife has been receiving payments from EIBSS since his death.
36. I do not know how my parents learnt about the support schemes but after his death I found many letters from the Inquiry. I only found out about the support schemes through the Haemophilia Society.
37. When my dad died his estate received payments for 3 months from EIBSS. My sister and I were the main beneficiaries of his will, with his current wife receiving £[GRO-C] and my sister and I the remainder of his estate.
38. I have no contact with my dad's second wife.

Section 8. Other Issues

39. I think the Inquiry should recommend compensation to everyone affected even though no amount of compensation would bring back a loved one or truly compensate for the years of stress and hardship my family and I suffered.
40. I believe it is wrong that those children who lost parents through contaminated blood products aren't receiving any sort of interim payment. It's not fair at all.
41. I think it is wrong how my dad's second wife is likely to receive £[GRO-C] when she was never around my dad. She was there for 2 days of the week while I was there for the whole time. She did not live with my dad so didn't see how bad he truly was every day. Meanwhile his children have received nothing and that is not fair. We lost our father.
42. I want those responsible for this to be held accountable. They have ruined lives and killed people and they can't be left to get away with all of this harm.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

I do not wish to apply for anonymity and 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: 28/11/22