

Witness Name: Patricia Dix

Statement No. WITN7218001

Exhibits: WITN7218002-WITN218005

Dated: 1st November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PATRICIA DIX

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th September 2022. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, Patricia Dix, will state as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Patricia Ann Dix. My Date of birth is the GRO-C 1946, and my address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I have two children with my previous husband, and I am now married to Jeffrey Dix. He lives with me at the address known to the Inquiry.
3. I am currently retired, and have been for approximately 16 years.

2. HOW INFECTED

1. I got infected with Hepatitis C through sexual contact, and this was in approximately 1972/1973. This was with my ex-husband David Grownville-Beese. He was born on GRO-C 1946 and died on 31st October 1986. He was infected through a blood transfusion on 17th December 1971 during a

Kidney Transplant at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. Whilst I cannot remember the date, he was informed that he had hepatitis C shortly after this operation. I was advised at the time that I should not come into contact with his blood, but was not informed about anything else. He was segregated from everyone else at the hospital, and that was when we knew that he had an infection. I am unaware of the cause of his death, as we were divorced at the time he died.

2. Following this, I phoned my GP, Dr Mazin at Cwm Surgery, and told him that I was yellow in colour. Dr Mazin came to my house and stood in the porch. He said that I had jaundice. He then took my bloods in the porch, and told me to take them to the Heath Hospital, Cardiff. I thought that this was strange as the doctor told me that I could not have anyone in my house, I still had to take my bloods to the hospital. My bloods were collected at the hospital on the 5th April 1973, and the 8th May 1973. The latter was for an Australia Antigen test and 'blood: liver function test', which can be found exhibited before me marked WITN7218002, and the former for a HAA, which can be found exhibited before me marked WITN7218003. The former also noted that I was jaundiced for 3 days, and that David had a kidney transplant in December 1971. Further bloods were collected on the 24th May 1973, and this was for an LFT and 'blood: H6' test, which can be found exhibited before me marked WITN7218004. The accompanying clinical notes can also be found exhibited before me marked WITN7218005.
3. I did not have any information or advice provided to me at all about the risk of being exposed to infection.
4. Dr Mazin informed me about my hepatitis C infection, and he called the infection hepatitis C. He told me not to touch anything. Whilst I knew not to touch the

blood, I was unaware of other methods of infection. When I found out I had the infection, I was told to isolate myself, and we isolated (my children, David and myself) for one month.

5. I do not feel that I was given adequate information to help me understand and manage the infection. They should have told us about the infected blood, and that people had been given it.
6. I felt like I was kept in the dark, and I did not have a clue what was going on.

3. OTHER INFECTIONS

1. I do not believe that I got any other infections apart from Hepatitis C.

4. CONSENT

1. I am not aware if David or I have ever been treated or tested without our knowledge or consent or without being given adequate or full information or for the purposes of research. I also believe that David was not given adequate information.

5. IMPACT

1. It is difficult to remember the impact that my infection had due to it being around 50 years ago. I can remember not being well, and being isolated. I can remember taking around 5 different types of antibiotics per day, and that is all I can remember being treated with for Hepatitis C. I cannot remember if it affected my mental health, I can just remember that I was so ill. I can remember feeling tired and it drained me. I also went to the doctor who thought that I was anorexic as I couldn't eat and was being sick.
2. I was not told whether I had cleared the infection. I can't remember if I have ever had a liver scan.

3. I haven't had any further medical complications or conditions following the infection, and my infection has not impacted treatment for my Angina or my dentist.
4. I don't know if there are any treatments that I should have been offered.
5. Being infected has put a mark on my social life, and me and David were afraid of having contact, and were afraid of catching it again. I believe that it caused a rift between us, due to not having sexual contact, and I think this is what led to the divorce. David had a vasectomy before his kidney transplant, and I was not informed that I could catch hepatitis C through sexual intercourse. I was also unable to see my children properly, and I was unwell when trying to look after them.
6. At the time, we didn't know how dangerous it all was. Only now do we know to be more careful, and we weren't told all of the symptoms before.
7. I was not in education at the time of my infection. I was a Secretary and a Lollipop Lady just after my infection, but I don't think I was working when I received the diagnosis.
8. I think it was wrong that we were left in the dark, and there should have been more help available at the time.
9. They could have informed David of the infection, and then we could have taken more care.

6. TREATMENT/CARE/SUPPORT

1. I have not found any difficulties in obtaining support for any treatment following my infection.
2. I have not had any counselling made available to me as a result of being infected.

7. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. I have not received any financial assistance from any Trusts or Schemes. I have completed an application form for the Welsh Infected Blood Support Scheme, which is dated 22nd August 2022.

8. OTHER ISSUES

1. There are no other issues, but it has been so many years since the infection that I have forgotten a lot of the details.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed... GRO-C

Dated... 1-11-2022