

Witness Name: Richard Gordon Cattley

Statement No: WITN7239001

Exhibits: NIL

Dated: October 2022

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RICHARD Gordon CATTLEY

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I, Richard Gordon Cattley, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Richard Gordon Cattley. I was born on GRO-C 1985, and I live at GRO-C.
2. I make this statement as the son of Dennis Cattley (born GRO-C 1949) who was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) as a result of receiving contaminated blood products and who died on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1999.
3. This statement has been prepared with the benefit of access to some of my father's medical records which arrived after my mother Susan Lesley Nicholson provided her statement to the Inquiry.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

4. My father had severe Von Willebrand Disease. He was treated at St James's Hospital in Leeds. GRO-C GRO-C have mild Von Willebrand Disease but receive no treatment for it. My father was treated with Cryoprecipitate, Tranexamic Acid, Epsikapron Syrup and Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate. When I was younger, I witnessed my mother injecting my father with Factor VIII (FVIII) on numerous occasions through little vials. My parents always kept the vials and medical disposal bins out of our reach, but I remember seeing them around the house.
5. I do not know when my father was diagnosed with HCV. I assume that he found out when he went into St James's Hospital for the operation to remove a growth on his liver in 1999. I was not aware that he had been infected with HCV until a couple of years after hearing about the Infected Blood Inquiry. Although this was when I was explicitly told, I do recall overhearing my mother talking to my aunty on the phone when we visited my father in ICU in 1999 about an 'infection', but I did not want to bring this up with my mother in case this upset her more.
6. I do not know what information or advice my father was given to help him to manage his infection.
7. I refer to my mother's statement dated 14 February 2019 (WITN1433001) which sets out the historic position.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

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

### **Section 4. Consent**

9. My brothers and I did not know that my father was infected with HCV so I cannot comment on the issue of his consent to treatment or testing.

### **Section 5. Impact**

- 9 I do not know whether my father suffered from any physical or mental effects because of his HCV. At the time, my mother shielded us from the fact that my father had HCV, so if he ever experienced symptoms which could be associated with his infection, such as fatigue, I assumed this was because he worked long hours.
10. My brothers and I would go and visit my father at St James's Hospital in the evenings before he died. After his operation, my father was transferred to an Intensive Care Unit and our visits became increasingly distressing. I was only 13 years old at the time so seeing my father hooked up to all those machines was a traumatic sight. My family and I sat and watched as the nurses turned off my father's life and support and he passed away in front of us. I couldn't believe this was happening as just before the operation we had been told that he was going in for a common procedure to remove a liver growth and that he would recover quickly.

11. As I was only 13 years old when my father died, I have experienced the majority of my adult life without a father. This has been extremely upsetting for me as I have not been able to have the same experiences as my friends who have close relationships with their fathers. Hearing friends say that they are going out to spend time with their fathers has been a constant reminder of what I have missed out on.
12. I feel that my father's death has affected my twin brother, Jonathan, the most. Although we are twins, Jonathan always seemed like my little brother, and after my father's death he became very angry and upset about what had happened. As a result, he had a poor behaviour and attendance record at school. I also felt very sorry for my mother in the years following my father's death as when he was alive, it seemed that they liked to spend all their time together. This meant that after his death she lacked an outside social network to support her as she grieved the loss of her husband and best friend.
13. I was in Year 9 when my father died, and I remember I was preparing for my GCSE exams at the time. The stress associated with his death, as well as missing school for hospital visits, impacted on my ability to concentrate on my exams. Nevertheless, school did serve as a productive distraction for me during these times and I did well enough in my exams to be able to attend university.
14. As a family we were not particularly well off. My parents always provided what they could for us, but we never went on holidays abroad or had the latest clothes or gadgets. I remember my father had to work two jobs to look

after us and after his death, the loss of that income was a financial blow. My mother had to work whilst grieving and if the insurance had not paid off the house, I am unsure as to how we would have coped.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

15. I do not think that my father received any treatment for his HCV. I did not receive any counselling nor psychological support following his death.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

16. I was not aware that there was financial assistance available for those suffering.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

17. I have several questions that I would like answers for. For example, it is important for me to find out whether the NHS knowingly infected people, such as my father, and if so, how this was allowed to happen. It would seem surprising to me if the NHS did not know that the blood products were contaminated as it seemed obvious at the time that this was the case. Therefore, I feel that those responsible must take some responsibility for the mass injustice which they have caused. I also fail to understand why it appears that my father was given neither warning nor treatment for his HCV and would like this oversight to be explained to me.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

18. I do not wish to apply for anonymity, 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 ... 14/11/22 .....