

Witness Name: Andrew Cattley

Statement No: WITN7276001

Exhibits: WITN7276002-10

Dated: October 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANDREW CATTLEY

I, Andrew Cattley, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Andrew Cattley. I was born on GRO-C 1981, and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C I am married with children.
2. My father, Dennis Cattley (born GRO-C 1949) was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) as a result of receiving contaminated blood products. He died on 25th March 1999.
3. This Witness Statement has been prepared with the benefit of access to some of my later father's medical records, which have been provided to me by my mother Susan Lesley Nicholson and which were received after my mother 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. My brother, Richard, and I both have mild Von Willebrand Disease and receive no treatment for it. My father was treated with Cryoprecipitate, Tranexamic Acid, Epsikapron Syrup and Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate.
5. My father began to self-administer Factor VIII with the assistance of my mother in or about 1991 to treat his persistent nose bleeds (see **Exhibit WITN7276002**). Although I was not aware of this at the time, his medical records indicate that this was a new Factor VIII preparation known as 'Haemate P' (see **Exhibit WITN7276003**). I saw my mother injecting my father on numerous occasions and was also aware of the medical disposal bins and vials inside the house which would be kept out of the reach of my two younger brothers and me.
6. My father would also have frequent hospital appointments at St James's Hospital in Leeds. On a few occasions, I accompanied him on these visits and remember the nurses' familiar and friendly faces who always showed kindness to my father.
7. I do not know when my father was diagnosed with HCV. I was 17 years old when my father died after an operation which was intended to treat his liver cancer. I wasn't aware that he had been infected with HCV; my mother only disclosed this to me in recent years after hearing about the Inquiry. Although I did not know at the time, it is apparent from his records that he was

diagnosed as Hepatitis C antibody positive on 10th September 1993 (see **Exhibit WITN7276004**). Therefore, he would have been infected at some point before that date.

8. I do not know what information or advice my father was given to help him to understand or manage the infection and I would refer to paragraphs 6 to 19 of my mother's statement dated the 14th February 2019 (**WITN1433001**) which sets out the historic position.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I do not know if my father was infected with anything other than HCV. A letter from Dr Swinburne in 1983 noted that my father was immune to hepatitis B (see **Exhibit WITN7276005**). This was followed up by Dr McVerry in 1992 who stated that my father's Hepatitis 'B' vaccination status was satisfactory (see **Exhibit WITN7276006**).
10. It appears that my father was tested for HIV on multiple occasions from 1987 through to 1998. Yet, his medical records indicate that his results were remained negative (see **Exhibit WITN7276007**).

Section 4. Consent

11. I cannot comment on the issue of consent regarding testing or treatment. I was unaware that my father was infected with HCV.

Section 5. Impact

12. Throughout my childhood, my father always seemed tired to me, but I would put this down to the fact that he was holding down two jobs at the time. Therefore, it is hard to determine looking back whether his constant lack of energy and need for a rest after work was because of his HCV or due to his long work hours.

13. As I was the eldest of my brothers, I recall my father confiding in me that he was suffering from consistent and sharp stomach pains. At the time I assumed that this may have been a consequence of his severe Von Willebrand Disease, but on reflection I am now aware that this was related to his diagnosis of HCV.

14. His stomach pains progressively worsened, and we were told that he needed a tumour on his liver to be removed. At the time we were told that this was a routine procedure to treat his liver cancer with a high chance of recovery. However, the medical records suggest that my father was in fact terribly ill with an inoperable tumour, (as per **Exhibit WITN7276008**).

15. I was only 17 years old when I lost my father. We used to visit him during the evenings at St James's Hospital in Leeds. Before the operation, he was awake yet visiting him became progressively worrying when he was placed in ICU. It became increasingly clear that the procedure he had gone in for was clearly not as simple nor risk-free as we had believed it to be. It was a traumatic sight to see my father lying unconscious attached to all sorts of machines which I can recall even now.

16. On the day that my father died, I received a phone call during my college apprenticeship requesting that I pick up my brothers and drive us to see my father in the hospital. The nurses explained to us that my father's life support machine would need to be turned off. This harrowing conversation has stayed with me throughout my life.
17. As a family, we sat and watched as my father slipped away from us. I think we were all in a shocked state of mind as to how this could have happened. Afterwards, I decided to go back into the room alone, I had an incredibly emotive goodbye with my father during which I was consumed by the pain of losing him coupled with the shock that I would never see him again.
18. In the following weeks after his death, I tried to hold my feelings together for the rest of my family, taking on a fatherly role as I was the oldest of my brothers. It was only at my father's funeral as I carried the coffin and lowered it that his death truly hit me and although I am not a particularly emotional person I broke down to my cousin, letting out the emotions that I had tried to hold together in the previous weeks. These outbursts of immense grief became a periodic occurrence over the next few years and have continued throughout my life. Still now when my father is brought up in conversation, I find the subject very difficult to discuss without becoming emotional.
19. As I was the oldest sibling, I felt a responsibility to assume my father's position and care for my mother who was struggling with the loss of her husband. It was horrible to see her in such pain. Similarly, I needed to look after my twin brothers as they were only 14 years old at the time and my father's death had a huge impact on both of their lives, especially

Jonathan's. Jonathan has always taken the role of my youngest brother and he was terribly upset about what had happened for a long time.

20. I feel deeply hurt by the fact that my father has missed out on such key events in my life such as seeing me marry or have children and I wish that my children could have experienced having such a wonderful grandfather, which I know my father would have been. My father would have delighted in the fact that I have a daughter as this would have been a new experience for him, having been surrounded by such a male-dominated family.

21. The responsibilities which I assumed at home as the oldest man in the house impacted my education. It meant that I did not want to move away to go to university and when my brother later went to university in Leeds, I made the sacrifice to stay at home so that he could enjoy the full university experience. In hindsight, this meant that my father's death prevented me from pursuing the educational part of my life independently.

22. My father had held down two jobs when I was younger and so after my father died, this loss of income was a financial blow to the family. I had been sheltered from any financial difficulty from my mother and have a great respect for her as she did all that she could to make sure that our childhood was a comfortable one. Yet, after my father's death I was more aware of potential financial difficulties, and I wanted to take care of the family like he did.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

23. I had no counselling or support, and I am unaware of any treatment given to my father for HCV. **Exhibit WITN727609** indicates a reluctance at the start to treat my father's hepatitis with interferon as his liver function had seemingly improved. Yet, as his liver function worsened, Dr McVerry suggested that a liver biopsy or Interferon injections may be necessary, see (see **Exhibit WITN7276010**). Despite his suggestion, that course of action was not taken.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

24. I live in the same address where my father lived, and I received a letter in my father's name which related to the Skipton Fund. On receipt of this letter, I handed this straight to my mother as I felt it was for her to deal with. Before then I was unaware of any funds being available. I am unaware whether my mother has received financial assistance from the Skipton Fund since that letter arrived.

Section 8. Other Issues

25. The worst thing for me is that everything that has happened to my family, and numerous other families, was completely avoidable. I feel that we deserve answers as to why and how this happened and why my father did not receive any treatment for his HCV. Responsibility deserves to be placed in the hands of those who knowingly let this injustice occur.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

26. 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: 15/11/2022