

Witness Name: Colin Stewart Campbell

Statement No.: WITN7359001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 28 October 2022

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF COLIN STEWART CAMPBELL

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 10 October 2022.

I, Colin Stewart Campbell, will say as follows: -

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Colin Stewart Campbell. My date of birth is GRO-C 1964 and my address is GRO-C Sweden.
2. I run a division of a large IT company, developing IT services for public sector organisations in Sweden. I am married to my wife, Lisa-Lote ("Lisa") Bulow Campbell. I have two children from a previous relationship.
3. I intend to speak about my infection with hepatitis C ("HCV"). In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment received and the impact it had on me, my wife and our lives together.
4. The anonymity process has been explained to me and I wish to waive my right to anonymity.

## **Section 2. How Infected**

5. I was born in Stonehaven, near Aberdeen. In 1986, I was working as a civilian in meteorological research for the Ministry of Defence. I was stationed at RAF Cardington, near Bedford.
6. In the build-up to Christmas of 1986, I decided to visit my parents in Stonehaven. I planned to ride up there on my motorcycle.
7. I duly left RAF Cardington around 5pm on 21 December and departed for Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire. It was dark, cold and raining.
8. I headed to join the M1 motorway at junction 15, near Northampton. On the roundabout above the M1, before joining the motorway, I was cut-up by a truck. The truck driver didn't see me and my motorbike hit the curb. I bounced off the truck, then bounced off the barrier.
9. My body crashed onto the road and the truck's trailer ran over my leg. My leg was smashed to pieces. I lay on the road for what seemed like an eternity, but was probably only a few minutes.
10. A nurse stopped the traffic on the junction and someone ran off to find someone with a car phone, not so easy in 1986. The nurse took control of the situation and helped to calm me down whilst someone phoned 999.
11. An ambulance arrived and took me to Northampton General Hospital, which fortunately was just a 3 minute drive away. I was still conscious.
12. I was immediately taken down for surgery at Northampton General Hospital. The first of two surgeries involved re-setting the leg and inserting pins to hold it in place. I am unsure what the second surgery entailed.
13. My impression at the time was that the surgeries were quite complex. I lost my knee cap and had a broken femur, and my fibula and tibia were broken in several places. I think I also dislocated my hip.

14. I can recall there being a lot of blood. I remember my visor being covered in blood.
15. The surgeon later told me the break in my femur had damaged my femoral artery. The femoral artery was punctured, which I was told was very serious, I could have bled out.
16. I think I almost certainly would have died if I hadn't had the accident so close to a major hospital. I was also fortunate in that a nurse was nearby when the accident happened.
17. The hospital treatment I received on my leg was first class. I spent three to four weeks in Northampton General Hospital over Christmas 1986 and afterwards I underwent a long recovery. I effectively had to learn to walk, and later run, again. The hospital staff and treatment were fantastic and I feel incredibly lucky and privileged to have had that treatment.
18. I do not recall being explicitly informed that I had a blood transfusion before, during or after either of the two operations. In A&E when I first arrived, I was anaesthetised. I was thereafter sedated to various degrees throughout the whole process.
19. In hospital I was strapped up and connected to all sorts of things. I would say, beyond doubt, that the severity of my injuries, the blood loss and the complexity of the operations would have necessitated, at the very least, one or more blood transfusions.
20. I was off work for four months after the accident and returned to duties at RAF Cardington the following summer. At the time, I didn't feel unwell. My recovery was solely focussed on my leg, otherwise I had no health concerns. I left the RAF in March 1988.
21. I moved to Ireland in 1988 and had two children with a partner I met in Ireland. At that time, I didn't notice any health problems. To some

extent, having restricted mobility makes you feel 'unwell' but in fact I didn't feel ill or unhealthy whatsoever. I lived there until 1994.

22. I moved to Sweden in 1994 and later met my wife. In retrospect, I look back at the 1990s as being a pretty exhausting time for me. I had a punishing schedule working in a touring rock band, playing lots of festivals.
23. I have never been a heavy drinker. Being in a rock band carries a certain amount of stigma, but I was never much of a drinker and I certainly never took drugs. I just enjoyed playing music.
24. My wife and I married in 1998. She recalls that I used to complain of tiredness a lot during that period.
25. In 1998, we visited Scotland together for the first time. We were staying with my sister in Edinburgh. We all went out together one evening and when we got back to her apartment, I couldn't walk up the stairs. I basically passed out, I just felt wrecked. I said to my wife that I needed to get checked out.
26. When we returned home to Sweden, I went to see my GP, Dr Kardos (at Lakarhuset, Odenplan Practice, in Stockholm), in either late 1998 or early 1999. Dr Kardos did a full check-up. I remember being concerned about AIDS, which was a big worry for everyone at the time.
27. Dr Kardos told me that I didn't have AIDS but I had HCV. I asked what HCV was. I remember thinking it was a junky's disease. I didn't do intravenous drugs and never had done, so it was a mystery to me. I smoked and drank a little bit but not much at all. I had never heard of infected blood at that stage, it is only in the last year or so that it has seeped into my consciousness.
28. Dr Kardos didn't ask me whether I had ever received a blood transfusion. She asked if I was a drug user or if any of my sexual contacts were drug users. She also said that 'they didn't consider this to be a sexually transmitted disease'.

29. After my HCV diagnosis, I began a course of treatment almost immediately. I was told it was experimental. For background, I didn't have to pay for this treatment in Sweden. The Swedish health service is very similar to the NHS, the only real difference being that if I needed emergency treatment I had to pay a sum roughly equivalent to £8.
30. Prior to starting the treatment, I had a liver biopsy. The pain of this was worse than the road traffic accident in December 1986. It was like being stabbed. The biopsy showed that I had extensive scarring of the liver but no cirrhosis.
31. My HCV treatment was a one year course of interferon injections. I was told there was another treatment that lasted six months, which was comprised of interferon injections coupled with antiviral tablets. However, I was chosen for the one year course solely consisting of interferon.
32. I injected the interferon every second day for the whole year. For the first six weeks, I was vomiting all night after an injection. All I can say is, when you injected yourself with interferon, you do not feel well at all.
33. This year of treatment was complete hell. It tore away at me psychologically. The interferon manifested itself in depressive episodes. I was dreading injecting this horrendous stuff into my body. The first six months of treatment were the worst.
34. Psychologically, the side-effects of treatment got gradually worse, even though the interferon effects became more tolerable. It was like having the flu every two days. I felt physically sick. My stomach looked like a dartboard from all the injections.
35. You knew what was coming every two days and you just dreaded it. I wasn't able to work at all throughout this period. I was having regular check-ups to monitor my progress. These tests showed the treatment was working.

36. When I completed the treatment, I had cleared the HCV. The doctor's exact words were 'you have no more chance of getting HCV again than any ordinary member of the population, statistically'. I continued to have check-ups for 5 years afterwards, at three-monthly intervals.

37. My liver condition now is fine. It has recovered to 100% functionality. I continue to have bouts of tiredness, but this could now be a result of my age.

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

38. I do not believe I received any other infections from the blood that I was given.

### **Section 4. Consent**

39. I do not believe that I have been treated or tested without my consent.

### **Section 5. Impact**

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We are still happily married.

44. My children were aged 9 and 6 at the time. I was able to see them on a part-time basis, but their mother had primary custody.
45. When you get something like HCV, you don't know if you're going to die or not. What limited knowledge of HCV I had was that it kills you; you sit around for 20 years and then you drop dead. I didn't think I was ever going to be cured and we were never told that we would be. We were just hopeful that the treatment, which was very much experimental at the time, was effective. I also understood that the HCV treatment was very expensive.
46. It took me a long time to get over the treatment. It took me until 2003, some four years later, to fully recover and begin touring with the band again.
47. The psychological effects of the treatment were by far the greatest impact on me. The act of injecting yourself with something that made you feel atrocious was awful. It made me want to die. The first six months in particular was a psychological grind. I absolutely dreaded injecting the interferon in the knowledge that it would make me want to die.
48. We had no real income for a year during my HCV treatment. I received social security payments, which was enough to live on. We didn't starve but we did suffer financially.
49. It never crossed my mind until recently that the operations after the road traffic accident could have necessitated blood transfusions. I only learnt about the scale of the infected blood scandal within the last two years or so, mainly through reading The Guardian online to keep up with the English news. It seemed the press coverage was mainly talking about haemophiliacs, which meant I didn't put myself into this category until I began to read further into it.

50. I put two and two together when I read about blood transfusions being a common source of HCV infection. I only ever received intrusive and operative medical care after the accident in 1986. I have to assume that I received blood in the course of these operations. This is the only explanation for how I came to be infected with HCV.

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

51. I did not face any difficulties in obtaining treatment, care or support in consequence of my HCV infection. The care I received under the Huddinge Hospital, Flemingsberg, was exceptional. GRO-C  
GRO-C The head of medicine took personal charge of our care and was most interested in how the treatment worked.

52. I tried to be stoic throughout the treatment but this was difficult. I never discussed my depression with the medical professionals, and I was never offered counselling or psychological support as a result. It was a very new treatment and the psychological profile of their patients probably wasn't at the forefront of their minds at the time.

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

53. I have never heard of any financial assistance or support schemes in respect of infected blood sufferers.

54. The Inquiry investigator has informed me of the existence of the English Infected Blood Support Scheme ("EIBSS") and I am thankful for the information.

55. I will consider applying but I am unsure at the time of writing whether I want to. I intend to discuss this with my wife.

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



56. I am telling my story to the Inquiry for personal validation that this is what happened. It has been a constant source of uncertainty in my mind. I know I haven't done anything stupid with my lifestyle. I don't care what people think, but I know what some people think; a member of a touring Irish rock band, he must have been using intravenous drugs, but that's simply and categorically untrue.

57. I feel that there needs to be a fault here. Is it somebody's fault or is it an institutional failing? I don't have the sense that the British state actually did anything to me.

58. The care I received was world class. It is therefore difficult to distinguish that in my head from the institutional failings that led to infected blood being imported into the UK blood supply.

59. I regard my approach to the Inquiry as being immature and late. I didn't feel that infected blood was connected to me. The news focus on haemophiliacs didn't relate to me, so I didn't put two and two together.

60. Structural failures can only be corrected by data collection, which is why I am putting my story forward. I am grateful for the opportunity to be heard.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

28, Oct 2022