



Witness Name: Sadia Naim
Statement No: WITN7390001
Exhibits: **WITN7258002**
Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SADIA NAIM

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 18 October 2022.

I, Sadia Naim will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My full name is Sadia Naim and my date of birth is **GRO-C** 1961. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am married and have children. I work as an Administrator for a 6th Form School.
2. I wish to speak about my late mother's infection with Hepatitis B (HBV) as a result of a transfusion in child birth.
3. I confirm that I am not currently legally represented and that I am happy for the Inquiry Team to assist me with my statement.
4. I also confirm that I have had the option to seek anonymity and the Inquiry's statement of approach explained to me. I can confirm that I am not requesting anonymity.
5. The Inquiry's criticisms procedure and the 'right of reply' has been explained to me.

Section 2: How Infected

6. My mother's name was Birjis Jahan-Khan, she was born on GRO-C 1939, she passed away on 11 December 1987, making her just 47 when she passed.
7. I have sent a scan of her Death Certificate to the inquiry and it is exhibited as **WITN7258002**. It lists the causes of death as:
 - 1a Hepatic Failure
 - b Chronic Active Hepatitis (Hepatitis B Surface Antigen Negative)
8. During her working life, she worked in a factory and she was also a child-minder. My mother and father married on 15/07/1956 and had 6 children. I have 3 brothers and 2 sisters. My father has also passed away.
9. The first 5 births appear to have been without incident. The youngest of my siblings was born on GRO-C 1972, in Lambeth Hospital in South East London (this no longer exists). 2 or 3 days after the birth my mother bled a lot and required an emergency blood transfusion, to save her life. I was only 11 at this time.
10. She appeared to be in good health following the transfusion for a number of years, then in 1987 she started to feel unwell and had a lot of illnesses over a 2 month period, mainly relating to her liver including weight loss, loss of appetite, pain, lethargy, itchy skin, Diarrhoea, jaundice and nausea.
11. These symptoms adversely impacted her quality of life. She was admitted to the Dulwich Hospital in East Dulwich on about 12th Oct 1987, she was diagnosed with HBV about 2 weeks before she died. I was 26 at this time.
12. The hospital considered doing a liver transplant but this never happened.
13. Within about 2 months of becoming ill, my mother died on 11 December 1987 as a result of the transfusion, she had been given 16 years before.

14.

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15. There were no other risk factors involved in my mother's diagnosis and subsequent death from HBV. She had not had any other transfusions; she didn't drink or take non-prescription drugs. She didn't have tattoos.

Section 3: Other Infections

16. The staff at the Dulwich Hospital did speak to us about a Hepatitis C but this was never confirmed as far as my family are aware.

Section 4: Consent

17. I am not aware that she was tested without her knowledge or consent or for research purposes.
18. The family are unaware if she consented to the transfusion in 1972.
19. Things happened so quickly at Dulwich Hospital, it is difficult to know that she or my father consented to all the treatment that she had at that time.

Section 5: Impact

20. When my mother became ill in 1987 and then died shortly after, there was only one of the children still living at home with my father. The rest of us had moved out after getting married. We all worked at this time.
21. When my mother died it hit the family very hard, she was our rock. She and my father had 7 grandchildren then.
22. My father had a severe stroke in November 1987, when my mother was in hospital. The 2 things were obviously linked.
23. He was very sick for 2 years with treatment at home. Even then he had very limited movement and was unable to return to work. He had been an estimator for a printing company.
24. This had a severe impact on our family and exacerbated our difficulties, our mother had died suddenly and our father was very ill and needed a lot of care.

25. My father died on 11 May 2019, but never recovered after the death of my mother.

Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support

26. No counselling or psychological support was made available to our family.

27. Dulwich Hospital gave the impression of doing everything they could clinically for my mother, in the short time she was there, however, we felt that the diagnosis was very slow, the prognosis was not clearly articulated to the family, there was no discussion around palliative care or end-of-life care, no counselling or support was offered to our mother or our family and the quality of care was sub-standard, even for the 1980s.

28. It is our strongly held view that if a definitive diagnosis was made sooner, curative treatment options such as a liver transplant would have been viable for our mother and her life may have been saved.

Section 7: Financial Support

29. We were unable to get any details about my mother's transfusion, I am applying for her medical records from her GP and have contacted Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in relation to obtaining her medical notes from the old Lambeth Hospital.

30. I have contacted the English Infected Blood Support Scheme but they say that HBV is not covered by the scheme, only HCV and HIV.

Section 8: Other Issues

31. I understand that people with HCV are covered for support and potentially compensation but I think that it wrong that HBV victims are excluded.

32. HBV infections were caused by NHS negligence, in exactly the same way via transfusions, as HCV and HIV.

33. There should be closure for all those affected by the infected blood scandal.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 27/11/2022.