



Witness Name: Janette Madgwick

Statement No: WITN7407001

Exhibits: WITN7407002

Dated:

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JANETTE MADGWICK

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 13 October 2022.

I, Janette Madgwick will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

1. My full name is Janette Madgwick, my maiden name is Bloomer and my date of birth is GRO-C 1970. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am married. I work as a Catering Assistant with a university.
2. I wish to speak about my mother's infection with Hepatitis B (HBV) as a result of a transfusion in child birth. Her name is Alexandra Catherine Bloomer, she was known as Sandra. She was born on GRO-C 1951.
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 inquiries criticisms procedure and the 'right of reply' has been explained to me.

6. My youngest sister Stephanie, was with me during the interview in preparation of this statement. Sandra has significant dementia and is not able to assist us at all with this statement. I and all my siblings have an Enduring Power of Attorney over her dealings.

## Section 2: How Infected

7. My mother and father, had 5 children, all girls, I'm the second eldest. In age order we are called Yvonne, Janette, Lorraine, Catrina and Stephanie. My father passed away in 2018.
8. There were no issues with the first 2 births, and Sandra was in good health. Lorraine was born on GRO-C 1973 in the Belvedere Hospital, London Road, Glasgow (this no longer exists) and Sandra bled following this birth. She had to be given a blood transfusion, I don't know then amount she was given.
9. After the transfusion Sandra's health deteriorated her symptoms included: fainting regularly, fits, feeling sick and exhaustion. She was so poorly that the whole family had to stay with our Sandra's mum (our Grandmother) for long periods, to help Sandra take care of the children while she was having frequent faint episodes.
10. These health problems lasted all of her life but she didn't have any issues before the transfusion following Lorraine's birth in 1973.
11. Her last child, Stephanie was born on GRO-C 1986, in the Rottenrow Maternity Hospital in Glasgow (this has now closed, as well). It was thought that Sandra might need a C Section (but didn't in the end) in preparation the hospital did a blood test and identified that Sandra was HBV+.
12. Sandra was asked by the staff in the hospital, if she took drugs, drank too much alcohol or slept around? Sandra was furious, she didn't do any of those things. She hardly touched alcohol. My father was present when she was asked this and I always wonder if he might have doubted her at all.
13. Whilst in hospital after Stephanie was born, Sandra was not allowed any visitors including her family, all the staff had to wear PPE.

14. When Sandra and Stephanie were sent home from the Maternity Hospital, she was given very little advice about how to deal with her HBV. She was only told to be careful if she bled for any reason. There was no follow up, no aftercare and no treatment offered to her.
15. Because of what Sandra had been told, my father just told the older children in our family to be very careful "if mum bleeds, don't go near her". This just left Sandra feeling 'super contagious'.
16. In about 2001, when Sandra was about 50 years old, she developed early onset dementia.
17. We have given the investigator a copy of a Southampton General Hospital from DR. Christie an Associate Specialist, Dr Haworth the Consultant Dermatologist to Dr A Nessim Sandra's GP. The letter lists the following diagnosis: Hypertrichosis – secondary to porphyria cutanea tarda. For regular venesection, trial of topical Eflornithine (Vaniqa) to areas of Hypertrichosis and Gastroenterologist for hepatology opinion. Exhibit **WITN7407002**
18. In 2010/11, Sandra developed additional health problems with her liver this was treated by the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth. They were checking for liver cancer due to the HBV.
19. At this time she was also diagnosed with Hemochromatosis and chronic HBV. She developed repeated blisters on her hands and hair started to grow on her upper cheeks (this had to be shaved off by her family).
20. Over a period Sandra started to have regular liver surveillance scans at the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth. These happened yearly in 2011, 12 & 13 after this she was told she "didn't need to go back again" but no explanation was given.
21. She was offered no treatment for the HBV or liver cancer.
22. On one of these visits for a liver scan she was asked "Do you abuse alcohol?" which really upset her as she only drank a glass of wine on special occasions and had never drunk to excess.

23. Sandra had no other risk factors for the HBV. She has never had any other transfusions, she has never taken intravenous drugs. She has no tattoos, her ears are pierced but this would have been done in a reputable shop.

### Section 3: Other Infections

24. As far as I'm aware Sandra has not contracted any other infections, than HBV.

25. There was some confusion within the family because we thought when dad told us about Sandra's infection, he said it was Hepatitis C not B. We have recently contacted her GP and their records only show HBV.

### Section 4: Consent

26. I don't know that Sandra has been tested without her knowledge or consent or used for research purposes.

27. I do not believe she was provided with adequate information about her infection or how to deal with it.

### Section 5: Impact

28. There has been a significant impact on our family. It was never discussed outside the family and very rarely within it. If the subject was ever raised, my mother would always shut the conversation up. She was ashamed of it.

29. In about 1988 (approximately 2 years after the HBV diagnosis), mum and dad decided to move from Scotland to GRO-C in England. The family had no connection there and dad had no job or house to go to. We moved away from our large extended family and support network of friends.

30. Yvonne who was aged 19 refused to move and stayed in Glasgow. Loraine who was only 14 or 15, did move to GRO-C initially but ran away from home and went back to Glasgow and lived with Yvonne.

31.

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**Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support**

32. No counselling or psychological support was made available to her.
33. She was never informed how to care for herself, or minimise the risks to others.  
She was just sent home with no support.
34. No treatments have been offered for the liver issues or HBV, which is terrible.

**Section 7: Financial Support**

35. The family has never been told about any financial support being available.
36. The investigator has told us about the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme and the need to try and get medical notes about Sandra but this may be difficult after all this time.
37. We have contact the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme and they have sent us forms for HCV, even though I told them it was HBV. This form ask for a Dr to complete and mums GP won't complete them as they say they are for HCV and not HBV. I will contact them again to ask if there is a form for HBV.
38. We will also contact the HBV Trust to get their support.

**Section 8: Other Issues**

39. I have no other matters that I would like to raise.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C: Janette Madgwick

Dated

2/11/22