

Witness Name: Clare Foster
Statement No: WITN7439001
Exhibits: WITN7439002-005
Dated: November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CLARE FOSTER

I, Clare Foster will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Clare Foster. I was born on GRO-C 1981. I live at GRO-C
GRO-C.
2. I am married to Steve Foster, and I have two children, GRO-C,
aged 15, and GRO-C aged 10. I am a student nurse.
3. I make this statement in connection with my late dad (dad), Trevor Frederick
Graham, who was born on GRO-C 1953 and died on 21 July 1991, aged only
38, after being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and
Hepatitis C (HCV).
4. My mum (mum), Patricia Mary Hall, has given a witness statement to the Inquiry
under WITN1262001, but at this time we were not in possession of dad's
medical records. These arrived on 8 October 2020 and my statement is made
with the benefit of those records.

5. My brother, Trevor Graham, also intends to provide a witness statement to the Inquiry.

Section 2. How Affected

6. My dad passed away when I was aged 9 and my brother was aged 13. My dad was 1 of 6 siblings. He was husband to my mum, and a wonderful caring dad to both myself and my brother. Both my dad and his younger brother, Roy, were born with severe Haemophilia Type A (<1%). Roy sadly passed away from AIDS aged 32 years through contaminated blood products and the family were aware of this.
7. We as a family were led to believe my dad died from a brain haemorrhage as stated on his death certificate. However, in October 2020 we discovered the truth. Dad was HIV positive, he died from a brain haemorrhage induced by Thrombocytopenia and AIDS. His death certificate is not accurate, and on 28 July 1992 an independent doctor confirmed dad's final diagnosis as the following:
 - Extensive bleed into the right lateral ventricles
 - Chronic Liver disease
 - Haemophilia A
 - AIDS

I attach this as **Exhibit WITN7439002**. As stated above, this was not what was written on my dad's death certificate.

8. **Exhibit WITN7439003** is a document dated 22 January 1992, which was 6 months after my dad's death, which shows that the cause of death was a

cerebral bleed. This document also classifies my dad's condition as AIDS and confirms that he was on anti-AIDS drugs.

9. **Exhibit WITN7439004** is a document dated 1st December 1992, which was 17 months after my dad's death, which states *"cause of death was a cerebral bleed on the 18/07/91. He was thrombocytopenic since September 1990 and had had diarrhoea for six months from January 1991. I am not aware of any AIDS indicated disease"*.
10. **Exhibit WITN7439005** is a document dated 29 November 1994, which is over 3 years after my dad's death, which states *"how would you classify his/her condition? AIDS-not accepted by CDSC"*. This documented is signed by Dr Bolton. The fact that the medical professionals are still discussing the cause of my dad's death over 3 years after his death leads me to believe that those professionals recognized that something was not adding up.
11. I have seen letters in my dad's medical records where Dr Rizza wrote to the MRI to ascertain whether an AIDS related illness applied to my father and the response was no.
12. Based on the contents of the exhibits and paragraph 10 above of my statement, in my view it indicates that medical professionals were lying.
13. Blood product records show that my dad received the following:
 - Cryoprecipitate
 - Fresh Frozen Plasma
 - Travenol/Hyland/Hemofil/FVIII
 - Profilate

- FVIII (BPL)
- FVIII (PFC)
- CUTTER - FVIII (Koate)
- Oxford FVIII

14. My dad was treated at the Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) Haemophilia Centre, Oxford Road. His consultants were DW Delamere, Dr Wensley and his nurse practitioner was Olive Redding. The MRI supplied the blood products to my dad as a home user Haemophiliac.

15. My dad was treated on the following dates with the following blood products:

- 1970 – 1977 dad was treated with a mix of cryoprecipitate and fresh frozen plasma
- 1977 – Travenol/ Hyland/Hemofil/FVIII
- 1978 – 1982 -a mix of FVIII (BPL) and Cryoprecipitate
- 1983 – Profilate, Cryoprecipitate and FVIII (BPL)
- 1984 – FVIII (BPL), Cryoprecipitate and FVIII (PFC)
- 1985 – Profilate, Cryoprecipitate, FVIII (BPL)
- 1986 – CUTTER - FVIII (Koate) FVIII (BPL)
- 1987 - CUTTER - FVIII (Koate) FVIII (BPL) and Travenol/ Hyland/Hemofil/FVIII

- 1988 – 1990 – FVIII (BPL, Profilate)
- 1991 – Oxford FVIII- he died that year and the medical professionals never told us why he died.

16. Since my mum gave her statement, I managed to obtain dad's UKHCDO records which confirmed that he tested positive for HIV on 25 February 1985. Frighteningly, the MRI only ever told my dad that he was borderline for HIV and HCV. It is outrageous that he was never told the truth. I am also aware that he had to watch his brother Roy, who was told he had HIV, die from the same symptoms that he was also suffering from. This must have been awful for my dad.
17. My dad was aware that he was HIV positive by 1987. The Macfarlane Trust (MFT) files show that mum was tested for HIV in 1987 the result of which was negative. This was never explained to my parents as couple. They tested my mum but did not tell her what she was being tested for.
18. My dad was infected with HIV which progressed to AIDS despite the fact that this was never noted on dad's death certificate.
19. My dad was also infected with HCV. We know this because Roy's wife was aware that both Roy and my dad were told that they both had HCV and they were told this news together. However, all HCV documentation is missing from dad's UKHCDO records.
20. We are unaware as to when my dad was actually told of his HIV infection, but from his MFT records it was circa 1987. Given that his first positive HIV test was 1985, there was a two-year gap of uncertainty surrounding this. We don't know who told my dad, but it was presumably his consultants Dr Delamore, Dr Wensley or his nurse practitioner Olive Redding.
21. I don't believe that my dad was given adequate information to understand and manage his infection. No information was given to my mum either.

22. I believe that information should have been given sooner so that would be when the MRI were aware that they were importing the factors which were providing the bulk of the commercial factors to home users, and when they were aware there was a '*significant problem of cerebral bleeds among these patients*'.

23. We were never told about my dad's infections even after his death.

24. We knew my dad was aware of his HIV infection from 1987, we do not know for sure when he was made aware of this or whether he was given guidance in relation to risks. [GRO-C]
[GRO-C]. I was born on [GRO-C] 1981 and his last negative was 29/11/1982. There is absolutely no way that my dad would have put his wife or his unborn child at risk if he knew. Conversely, I know that Roy was told not to attempt to conceive.

Section 3. Other Infections

25. I am unaware as to whether my dad was infected with any other infections, apart from HIV and HCV. We were never told that he had been infected with these infections.

Section 4. Consent

26. I believe that my dad was being tested without his knowledge, as his last negative HIV sample was just [GRO-C] after I was born in [GRO-C] 1982, meaning he and my mum were trying to conceive me 10 months prior to this, and if he knew about a possible infection there was no way he would put my mum at risk of infection.

27. I believe that my dad was tested and treated without his knowledge, consent and without being given adequate information. I also believe that my dad was tested and treated for the purposes of research without being told. I am also aware that from around the age of 18, dad's doctors had always wanted to take biopsies of his liver, but they would never tell him why they wanted to do this.

My dad refused to consent saying "*they are not using me as a bloody guinea pig*". My dad was also accused of being an alcoholic by the medical professionals in the years leading up to his death and I believe this was because they knew his liver was damaged by HCV and they were looking at a way to avoid blame.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

28. My dad became depressed and experienced random mood swings that were so out of character for him. Prior to his infections, he was a very placid and laid-back character. He became quite an irritated man from 1985 when he lost his brother to AIDS following which he was never truly the same. I believe this was a result of the fear of being infected and/or the trauma of watching his baby brother die from AIDS when he knew that he was also going to experience the same fate moving forward.
29. He suffered with an array of physical health problems as a result of his infections. He often had chronic diarrhoea and often struggled with having a bad stomach. His weight fluctuated; he went from being blown up and swollen to the later stages of being incredibly thin and yellow in colour. He suffered with terrible headaches, dizziness, confusion and loss of appetite. He had oral thrush and sores in his scalp which were so severe that he had to shave all his thick wavy hair off. My mum told me that he suffered from terrible night sweats. I recall him getting up in the night going to the toilet to be sick. The toilet was situated next to my room, and I used to hear dad being sick many times as the light from the toilet used to wake me. Dad suffered with his chest with persistent coughs and breathlessness, he had pink Ventolin tablets and I remember him using inhalers.
30. My dad was given Pentamidine and AZT which caused many side effects including nausea, which dad had to deal with on top of the numerous physical and mental effects of his infections.

31. I believe that Cryoprecipitate should have been given to dad, instead of Factor VIII products once the risk of infection from Factor VIII products was known by the medical professionals. I believe that the government and NHS staff knew that there was a risk of infection but none of them applied a professional code of conduct and their actions in continuing to treat patients with Factor VIII was inhumane.
32. I remember at some point that dad stopped letting me and my brother in the room when he was administering his Factor VIII. This was a totally new thing and something that was never an issue before as previously I had always sat watching him. I was totally fascinated by the green butterfly needles, the large syringes and the bottle of magic medicine in the fridge. I think that dad stopped letting us watch him once he found out that he was infected because he was scared of infecting us.
33. Similarly, now the bathroom door was always locked when dad was in there shaving or bathing whereas previously dad had never locked the door.
34. Dad spent a lot of time in bed. He was always tired, had a headache and suffered with chronic nose bleeds; his nose seemed to be packed more often than usual towards the later stages of his life.
35. Dad struggled with depression in his last year and looking back it was completely justified but it took away our precious quality time with him.
36. The loss of his brother affected my dad immensely; he was never same person after 1985. My dad was quite a private person and a family orientated man. We now know dad knew about his infection circa 1987 due to his MFT application being authorised through Dr Delamore at this time.
37. Dad was unable to work due to his infections, and he couldn't get a mortgage and could not provide like a regular husband and dad. This must have had a negative effect on his mental wellbeing.
38. He was also grieving his baby brother following his death from AIDS. He had to watch him die and then being told that he, like his brother, had been infected

with HIV, must have brought dad so much anger and emotional distress. He had to watch Roy deal with AIDS and poor dad then knew that the same thing would soon come to his door.

39. Due to unauthorised media coverage in the local papers by a journalist, the local community knew about dad's brother's cause of death. There was a presumption and stereotyping of AIDS at the time and whispers were rife. My dad never succumbed to them, but this must have been added pressure he didn't need given that he too, was now living his own death sentence.

40. Dad came in one night from work; he had been to the pub and was late home and he sat me on his knee on the armchair and called my brother over. I would have been around 6-7 years old my brother would have been around 10 years old. Heartbreakingly, dad explained that he wasn't always going to be around, that my brother needed to look after me and our mum and that I needed to be a brave girl for my mum. Dad cried when he told us this, I will never forget this memory for as long as I live. Dad uttered the words '*one day I'm going to die... I won't be here to see you grow up*' we thought he might be a bit little tipsy (he was never a big drinker) and that he was grief stricken at the loss of his brother. My mum then walked in and sent us to bed. I remember her talking to him asking what was wrong and telling him that whilst she knew that he was still grieving for his brother he needed to focus on his family and try to move forward with his life. However, knowing what we know now and upon reflection, she had absolutely no idea of how all our lives would be put in turmoil moving forward nor did she have any idea of the secrets that dad had been forced to harbour on his own.

41. There are letters in dad's MFT file, one of which states that he was concerned about Christmas presents for myself and my brother and in that letter, he stated he was HIV positive and couldn't work as a result of his infection. He said that he wanted to buy my brother a keyboard and me a portable TV as he was worried this would be his last Christmas with his family and he stated the uncertainty of his future in that letter. As a parent myself, I cannot even begin to imagine how he felt, watching me and brother and knowing that he wouldn't

see us grow up must have been soul destroying and it brings me to tears every time I think about it. To not be able to work and provide for your wife, or watch your children grow up must have felt like being on death row, not knowing when your last day would be with your family and knowing what his brother went through during the final stages of AIDS. I can't even begin to imagine the mental torture my dad endured during his last years, having to beg for necessities to keep his household maintained and pay bills.

42. The impact of this has devastated me in every possible way. As a family, we struggled financially. Mum always tried to give us the best she could; I don't know how she did it sometimes. But nothing was ever good enough for me, it always came back to the fact that things would be different if my dad was alive and as a result, I was resentful, angry and never satisfied. I was plagued with mood swings, anxiety and depression from my early teens that went undiagnosed as instead I was labelled a naughty child. I was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) aged 21 which was another blow that limited me.

43. Drinking alcohol again became an issue for me, partying hard of a weekend, turned into drinking in the week and by the age of 23 I was alcohol dependant. I was again partaking in reckless behaviour which nearly destroyed my relationship with my then fiancé. During my teenage years I also demonstrated these behaviours and I refer to paragraph 57 of the statement below.

44. Thank goodness the wakeup call came, and I started to work my way up in a finance company and managed to earn an extremely good wage which meant that I could then buy a house with my then fiancé and we later got married.

45. Emotions were high as my wedding day arrived. I sat in the cemetery for 2 hours talking to my dad, wishing he was with us for this special event. I then went home, put my smile on and got married. It destroyed me that dad wasn't there. I loved my husband and was happy but so sad at the same time about my dad.

46. One year later I had my first child, again dad wasn't there which destroyed me again. I became paranoid and didn't want to take my daughter out. I was scared

someone was going to take her away or hurt her. I was finally diagnosed with depression 8 months later.

47. I have had counselling, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT), and have lost track about how many antidepressants I have taken. No one has ever offered me counselling or psychological support in consequence of my dad's infections and subsequent death. My mental health has never ever been stable following dad's infections and death. My doctor isn't sympathetic, but I have learned to live with my mental health. I don't drink and have been clean from antidepressants for 12 months. How long this will last, I don't know.
48. I have been told in therapy that my biggest fear is the fear of loss, through the trauma of what I went through as a child losing my dad. I have been suicidal a few times in my life, especially after I discovered the truth about what happened to dad, it hit me so hard I couldn't function, I walked myself to the local bridge and contemplated my life.....my kids, my husband and my mum are the only reasons that I am still alive and breathing. I couldn't bring myself to be allow my kids to be parentless like I was... enough damage was caused by dad's death I didn't want history repeating itself.
49. The impact of finding out the truth about dad's infections hit me hard; I am extremely emotional, I'm so angry I have no words to describe it, knowing now what I didn't know at the time when I was a child has been hard to accept. It is like I'm grieving all over again regarding the fact that he has died now that I am an adult and I'm struggling to accept the truth. The fact that we were lied to, the fact my dad struggled in silence alone (probably advised by his doctors) until the day he died. I am angry about the fact that my mum didn't get what she was entitled to in relation to benefits and trust funds. The fact that the truth wasn't put on dad's death certificate. I want the world to know what happened to my dad, my uncle, and the victims, and I want to ensure that it is never forgotten.
50. My two children see me emotional and crying daily, but they struggle to understand why my heart is broken. I am so sad that my dad never met my children; they never knew the amazing man their granddad was. I am sad that

he never got to meet my amazing husband or see us get married. He never saw my brother graduate with honours. I am currently studying for a degree in children's nursing, trying to find the words for this statement has taken months of preparation and impacted my degree but I need closure, if even such a thing exists. In fact, I don't think it will ever be possible to obtain closure.

51. Mum was massively affected; [GRO-A]
[GRO-A]. This impacted me and my brother.

It meant that my brother did frequent trips to the shops to collect my mum's benefits and both of us would have to go on various errands for her. We walked ourselves to school and back. Parents would stare at us (stigma presumption). My brother and I were bullied at school, people said that our dad was gay and that he died of AIDS. Of course, we didn't understand what they were talking about at the time. Looking back now it was probably hearsay from their parents. Teachers were not comforting or forthcoming with us and we never got invited to parties like the other children did.

52. My mum only had a small circle of friends who looked out for me and my brother and who would at times walk us home with their children so we didn't feel so excluded. Our neighbours were wonderfully supportive and took me and my brother on day trips, as did a few of our friend's parents, but again the social circle was small; purposefully so.

53. My brother had to take on the role of '*man of the house*' which meant that he helped mum daily as well as holding down his education and at 16 he had to get a part time job to support the family income. He had responsibilities which no young person should have to take on and as a result he lost his late teenage and early adult years.

54. [GRO-C]
[GRO-C] [GRO-A]
[GRO-A] [GRO-C]
[GRO-C]

55. Dad was home-schooled and later went to a specialist school as he was unable to attend mainstream due to his Haemophilia. This was where he met my mum as she was on work experience there. Mum told me that dad and his brother hated being in a school for disabled children and that they struggled to adapt to this environment.
56. Going back to my early childhood, as a young 9-year-old girl I struggled to accept why God chose my dad and not my friend's dads and I remember feeling incredibly lonely. I couldn't sleep alone, so I slept with my mum in a double bed until I was 13 years old. I was scared of death and scared that my mum might die. I couldn't sleep over anywhere, not even with family as I was so insecure after dad's death.
57. Moving to my teenage years; this is where I struggled in education and got in with the wrong crowd. I self-harmed from the ages of 11-14 as I was trying to control the pain and emotions I felt at that time. I began drinking alcohol and taking drugs, stealing and playing truant with the result being that I failed the majority of my GCSE's. I then tried college but couldn't sustain it and I also tried a number of courses up to the age of 19 but again I never stuck with anything. I wanted to die; I just wanted to be with my dad and anything that took away the pain was a better way to feel than how I was feeling about the loss of my dad.
58. I was academic but couldn't apply myself to anything. I felt like a failure. My brother was studying for a degree, yet I was a chaotic mess. I felt like my mum hated me; I couldn't relate to her as I was a daddy's girl, and I just wanted my dad. I was so angry that he wasn't here anymore. I couldn't hold down jobs until I was aged 25.
59. I met my husband at the age of 15 at school which calmed me down immensely. We were school sweethearts. We have been together 25 years and I am grateful for him every day. I dread to think where I would have been without him. Probably dead, a drug addict or an alcoholic.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

60. I refer to my mum's witness statement in relation to this section.

61. I confirm that neither my dad nor I have ever been offered counselling or psychological support in consequence of his infections.

62. I also refer to my mum's witness statement in relation to this section.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

63. I refer to my mum's witness statement in relation to this section.

64. I confirm that I have never received any financial assistance from any of the Trusts or Funds set up to distribute payments.

Section 8. Other Issues

65. I want the Inquiry to recognise the hurt which has been caused to the children whose parents have been infected and who are now sadly no longer with us as a result of no fault of their own. I feel that this is not currently being done.

66. You cannot put into context how horrific it is for a child to lose a parent and of course for a parent to lose a child. Not to acknowledge this is plainly wrong.

67. As far as I am concerned, my dad was murdered by people who owed him a duty of care. Based on the evidence which has been given to the Inquiry thus far, I want corporate manslaughter charges to be brought against those who are culpable, including Kenneth Clarke. I want those who are accountable to hold up their hands and to say that what they did was wrong.

68. I want the other families who are victims of this terrible tragedy to have some sort of closure, if that is possible. What happened can never be forgotten.

69. I want my dad's death certificate to be amended to show the truth which is that he died from AIDS. I want the world to know what happened to my dad and my uncle.

Anonymity

70. I do not wish to apply for anonymity.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 22/11/2022.....