

Witness Name: Elizabeth Diane Hussey

Statement No: WITN7468001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH DIANE HUSSEY

I, Elizabeth Diane Hussey will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Elizabeth Diane Hussey. My date of birth is GRO-C 1946. I reside at GRO-C I am married and live with my husband. I have a son and daughter and three grandchildren.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my daughter's full medical records. I went to my GP on the 10th of November 2022 to see if they had any reports on my daughter and all they had for my daughter Rachel was the post-mortem report. I had never seen this document and no one had told me about it at all.

Section 2. How Affected

3. When Rachel was 9 days old, her umbilical cord had not come off, so I rang the doctor, Dr Casson and he came out and removed it and cauterised it. Rachel had lost a lot of blood, so he rang Southmead Hospital, and we were told to take Rachel to Southmead Hospital, to the John Milton Ward.

4. Rachel was taken from us by the nurses and the nurses tadvised me that Rachel was having a blood transfusion but they did not tell us straight away about the blood transfusion when they took her away, it was a little while after they took her away I was informed of this. I stayed in the hospital with Rachel, and they came and got me in the middle of the night as she was hungry, so I went to feed her, she was still having the blood transfusion at this time, and they had to move the tubes to let me feed her. She stayed in for a few days until she settled, and I then brought her home.
5. She had been fine until she had the blood transfusion. After the blood transfusion she was poorly and turning yellow, she was very yellow. I was worried about her. The midwife was coming in to see her and I kept telling her there was something wrong and I was not happy with how Rachel was and she told me to take her back to see the GP which I did and he told me to take her to hospital. Rachel was admitted to hospital again and stayed in for 5 weeks. I stayed with her, and my mum helped to look after my son and husband while I stayed in hospital with Rachel. When we took her into the hospital she had to see Dr Beryl Corner and she sent us straight over to John Milton Ward and they didn't know what was wrong with her then.
6. I didn't know what treatment Rachel was having, they didn't tell me a lot really. I asked what was wrong, but no one seemed to know what was going on. Rachel had a liver biopsy and I took her in the second time, Dr Corner told me that she had hepatitis. I didn't know much about what was going on, I was very young at the time, they said they would try this or that, I knew she had vitamin k injections, I really didn't know what they were doing and couldn't find much information out from them. There were not really interested in me, they were interested in the baby. They let her come home with me after 5 weeks.
7. I was told it was ok to take her out, but I still wasn't happy with her condition I just didn't know what it was but felt that something was not right. That Christmas time she went in hospital with pneumonia. She got over the pneumonia. I had to stop feeding her when we were in the hospital as they gave her special milk. They then let her home again and I had to take her back

to the hospital every other day for an injection and for them to see how she was getting along. One day I said I was sure something is really wrong she wasn't feeding and they kept her in hospital. The last week and a half of her life Rachel stayed in hospital and I visited her every day. I was telling them I was not happy something was wrong; she was still yellow. She was fine when she was born, but since the blood transfusion she was not right.

8. Rachel was only 1lb heavier when she died than she had been at her birth. When they kept her in this time, I went in every day to see her then on the 17th I had a call in the early hours to say that she had died. We did not even have a call to give us the opportunity to go in and see her before she died.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I am not aware of Rachel having any other infections other than the Hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

10. Rachel was not treated without my consent or knowledge, although I knew they were treating her, I did not always know what they were doing.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. The infection caused Rachel's death at only 7 months old, I was around 23 years old so quite young, and it was heart breaking to lose her. It put a massive strain on me and my husband. My husband had to work; he paid my mum to stay at home to look after my son when Rachel was in hospital. Her death was devastating for my whole family.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

12. Rachel did not have difficulties in getting treatment.

13. No counselling or psychological support has ever been offered to us.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

14. We have received no financial support as a result of what happened to Rachel. We were unaware of the trusts and funds that existed, no one told us about them.

Section 8. Other Issues

15. I don't think there are any other issues to raise. It was heart breaking, all I wanted was for Rachel to get well and to take her home. I didn't know she was having a blood transfusion; I was only told when she was in the middle of having it, I was not informed before, I was not asked to consent to it, I was not informed of any risks.

16. Rachel was perfectly fine until she had the blood transfusion. As a result of being given infected blood Rachel was robbed of the opportunity of growing up, she had her life cut short. We were robbed of watching her grow up and only had her in our lives for a few short months because of the blood transfusion she was given.

17. I cannot believe the GP cannot find any records for Rachel and only have the port mortem, I find this weird they have this but not her records.

Anonymity

18. I do not wish to remain anonymous.

19. I would like to give evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... GRO-C

Dated 9/12/2022