

Witness Name: Lynn May  
Statement No: WITN7544001  
Exhibits: 0  
Dated: November 2022

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LYNN MAY

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I, Lynn May, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Lynn May. I was born on GRO-C 1965, and I live at GRO-C  
GRO-C.
2. My husband, Gordon Andrew May (born GRO-C 1949), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through a contaminated blood transfusion. Gordon developed liver disease and he had renal problems. He died on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011, aged 61, through having a gastrointestinal bleed.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my husband's full medical records. I have tried to make contact with Gordon's

surgery to request copies of his medical records only to discover that the Practice has since shut.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

4. Gordon was transfused with contaminated blood whilst serving in the Army in the Parachute Regiment in the late 1970s or early 1980s. We met in the late 1990s and he had already undergone a liver transplant at that time. Gordon didn't like to speak much about his past. I knew that he had been infected with HCV and that he had renal problems.
5. Gordon and I had a son together (born November 2000) and, when Gordon died, our son was just 10 years old. Gordon's main consultant at the Sunderland Royal Hospital was Dr Harriet Mitchinson. She was very kind and gave me the heads up that Gordon's organs were failing so that I could plan our last Christmas together.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

6. I do not think that Gordon was infected with anything other than HCV.

## **Section 4. Consent**

7. Gordon had been shot and had obviously sustained a heavy blood loss when he was given the blood transfusion. He had a lot of wounds from his time in the

Army. I do not know what he was told about the HCV infection. He was very cynical about what had happened to him. He described it as 'all a cover up'.

## **Section 5. Impact**

8. Being infected with HCV was a strain on Gordon. I believe it led to the breakdown of his (first) marriage. Gordon and I met at a funeral of a child of a mutual friend in the late 1990s. He was a bit of a loner and he felt alone. Gordon had relocated to [GRO-C] from London. Gordon told me that he was infected with HCV through the blood transfusion he had in the Army when he was shot. Because of the associated stigma, not a lot of people knew he had HCV.
9. Gordon had already had a liver transplant when we met, but he appeared to be in relatively good health. He was of course taking immune suppressant drugs and before our son Andrew was born (in [GRO-C] 2000) we were told that it was unlikely Gordon would see Andrew's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.
10. I worked full time in a supermarket and Gordon stayed at home, caring for Andrew. We were happy and content. Gordon remained well until Andrew was 4 or 5 years old and then his health started to take a downturn. He then seemed to have hospital appointment after hospital appointment. There was a lot of concern about the immune suppressant drugs affecting Gordon's kidneys. Gordon was very depressed, and he took Citalopram.
11. As Gordon's health deteriorated to the extent that it became more and more difficult for me to hold down my job. I was getting up at 5.00 am to prepare meals and organise the family before going off to work. I had to arrange for friends to take Andrew to and from school which was a bus ride away from home. The older Andrew got, the more he became Gordon's carer (their roles reversed).

That said, Gordon and I married in 2007. It was a lovely family wedding down in London with all my sons there present and Gordon's parents too.

12. Ultimately it all became too much for me (and Andrew) to handle on a day by day basis. I had to give up my job and stop working some 8 or 9 months before Gordon died. As stated, Gordon's Consultant, Dr Harriet Mitchinson, gave us the heads up that it was likely to be Gordon's last Christmas. Gordon's parents came up for that last Christmas and had been with us for about 10 days (it was New Year's Day) when Gordon announced they 'needed to go home now'. We took them back the following day (I drove). When we arrived home Gordon just collapsed and lay on the settee and said he didn't feel well. Within days he was coughing up blood and he was admitted to hospital two days before he died.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

13. We had no help, support or counselling.

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

14. I do not think that Gordon had any help from the Trusts and Funds. We really struggled financially.

#### **Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

15. I do not wish to remain anonymous, and I understand that this Statement will be published by the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-C

Dated.....

22/12/22