



Witness Name: Norman Kampengele
Statement No: WITN7597001
Exhibits: **WITN7597002-5**
Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF NORMAN KAMPENGELE

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

I, Norman Kampengele will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My full name is Norman Kampengele and my date of birth is GRO-C 1948. My address is known to the Inquiry, I live in Zambia. I am retired having been made redundant in 1997, I did work as an internal auditor for the Zambian Government responsible for agriculture.
2. I wish to speak about my infection with HIV as a result of a blood transfusion in the UK following an operation to remove my pericardium (the sack surrounding the heart).
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.

Section 2: How Infected

6. I came to the UK from Zambia in 1975, to study. I lived in a rented flat in South London and attended the South West London College. My studies were going well and I was passing my exams. I was in good health at this time.
7. In the summer of 1977, I became ill. I was so ill my GP had to attend my flat, I was unable to move. The GP called an ambulance and I taken to St James's Hospital in South West London. I was admitted on 2 July 1977,

8. It was found that I had fluid in my lungs and pericardium. I was in hospital for 2 months. They would draw off the fluid and I would feel better and could walk but it always came back again. It was established that I had Tuberculosis (TB). I was on medication but they decided to operate on me, as the medication wasn't working.
9. I was transferred to St Georges Hospital, Hyde Park Corner in October 1977, they then operated to remove my pericardium on 19 October 1977.
10. St Georges Hospital, Hyde Park Corner no longer exists but became (and still is) part of the St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. I have recently contacted the Trust and very luckily, they still have my hospital records, consisting of 86 pages.
11. I have forwarded these to the Inquiry Investigator and they are produced as exhibit **WITN7597002**. 3 specific pages highlighting the transfusions I had are exhibited later.
12. I recall I was transferred from St James's to St George's by ambulance, I was escorted during the journey by a nurse who had my medication notes with her. I was prepared for the operation, my chest was shaved and given a sedative. I remember the anaesthetist explained what would happen during the operation and said I would be in the operating theatre a long time, he may have mentioned me having a blood transfusion but I cannot recall. It was obviously a major operation involving heart surgery.
13. I woke in the recovery room. I recall asking the nurse for a drink of water but I was told I wasn't allowed any liquids. I don't recall being taken to a ward, I couldn't sit up in bed and to have a rope at the end of the bed to assist me to do so. Initially I had to use a commode or be lifted from the bed. I was also on a heart monitor. I was in severe pain for weeks and couldn't get out of bed for 2 or 3 weeks and even then, I could only take a few steps.
14. They transferred me from St Georges hospital to St James's hospital after the operation. I was eventually discharged near Christmas that year (1977). When I returned to my flat, there were cobwebs in it.
15. I spent lot of time in 1978, recovering, I couldn't walk far, I had pain generally everywhere. I was too ill to start college again after the operation.
16. Around 1978 to 79, I started to feel feverish. I did enrol in another college but couldn't complete the course as I had a poor attendance record and low concentration. I had pain all-over but it was a different pain to after the operation.
17. In 1980, the scar on my chest, developed a lump at the top of the scar. I got it looked at but nothing conclusive was found and no treatment was given.

18. I went to Zambia later in 1980, the lump on my chest scar was getting worse. I returned to the UK later in 1982.
19. I went to St Georges Hospital, which had now moved to Tooting in South London, they said that the lump was an infection near to a wire that had been inserted in my chest at the original operation. The wire needed to be removed, and it was at the hospital.
20. I was admitted and put into isolation, I had the operation. From the medical notes this was in August 1983. I am unsure if I had transfusion or not. According to the medical notes **WITN7597002**, page 33, it appears that blood was drawn up for a transfusion and it is unclear if it actually used. After the operation the lump was gone and didn't return.
21. According to medical records **WITN7597002** (page 68) There were two operations at St Georges Hospital Tooting. The first one was to remove the wire where the lump was, and the second was to remove the remaining wires.
22. I was discharged, but I cannot recall how long I spent in hospital. The lump had been removed. I then lived in North London. My studies again were not going well, as I was in a lot of pain with aches all over my body.
23. I had further tests (I cannot recall where these were carried out) to find out about the reason for these problems but wasn't told about any infection. In 1984 I returned to Zambia. I was told that my medical notes would be sent on, but this was never done.
24. In about 2000, I had further health issues, aches all over my body (the same as 1983/4 in the UK), also a fever. Since the 1980's I had an itchy body. I was sent to an HIV clinic. When I went back for the results, I was asked questions like "What would you do if you are HIV+?". Then I was told that I was HIV+, I was also given some information about HIV/ AIDS, the do's and don'ts.
25. When I was told that I was HIV+, it was obviously devastating news to receive. At that time (and still to this day) there is a huge stigma to HIV in Zambia.
26. I was sent to see the HIV specialist and was told that I wouldn't be given until my CD4 count went below 300. I think that is wrong and it should have been given straight away, but that was the way it was done in Zambia at that time.
27. Currently my viral load is zero but my CD4 count is 340, the doctors cannot explain this anomaly. My current medications are Dolutegravir which contains Lamivudine, Tenofovir (this used to be given for HBV apparently) and Disoproxil Fumarate
28. In addition to the HIV, I have prostate cancer and I'm undergoing radiation therapy. I have had to have an Orchiectomy operation to have my testicles

removed, as PSA score was going up and my testosterone level was too high.

29. I still suffer with the itchy body, this is an ongoing issue since the 1980's. I also get tremors all over my body and am always lethargic.

30. Other than the transfusions described I have no other risk factors. I have never had tattoos or piercings. I have never taken intravenous drugs or had gay sex.

31. I have told very few people about the HIV, as I had said there is still a massive stigma about it in Zambia.

32. Exhibits **WITN7597003**, **WITN7597004**, and **WITN7597005** are 3 individual screen shots produced by the Investigator from **WITN7597002**, which show the transfusion that I received in 1977.

Section 3: Other Infections

33. As far as I'm aware I have not contracted any other infections than HIV, but as far as I know I have never been tested for Hepatitis B or C.

Section 4: Consent

34. I don't know that I have been tested without my knowledge or consent or used for research purposes.

35. I do not believe I was provided with adequate information about my infection or how to deal with it but this was in Zambia.

Section 5: Impact

36. The impact of the HIV infection has had a devastating affect on me and my family. We cannot talk about it outside the family.

37. I have never had any counselling offered to me in Zambia

Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support

38. My treatment for HIV has all been in Zambia but I am sure it should have been identified in the UK.

Section 7: Financial Support

39. Contacted the St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and luckily, they still had my medical notes from 1977. After speaking to the Inquiry Investigator, I have recently applied to the English Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS).

Section 8: Other Issues

40. 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 
Norman Kampengele

Dated 29/12/2022