1	Monday, 26 September 2022	1	W4211 and any other identifying information, such as
2	(10.00 am)	2	the witness's image or a description of their
3	(Proceedings delayed)	3	appearance, cannot be disclosed or published in any
4	(10.30 am)	4	form unless express permission is given by me or by
5	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Welcome to the six of you and the	5	the solicitor to the Inquiry acting on my behalf.
6	seventh who is anonymous. Let me deal with the	6	Witness W4211 must be referred to only as Mr BD
7	position of that anonymous witness first, if you don't	7	That's bravo delta BD. This order remains in force
8	mind.	8	for the duration of the Inquiry and at all times
9	My apologies though to you and to those who are	9	thereafter unless otherwise ordered, and I may vary or
10	listening for the delay there has been this morning.	10	revoke the order at any time by making a further order
11	It has been for logistical reasons. I don't think	11	during the course of this Inquiry. As always, it is
12	it may be a reflection of the fact that we have quite	12	vital that you respect and everyone listening online
13	a number of you together, which will make for a very	13	respects the anonymity of our anonymous witness.
14	interesting day talking about the Skipton Fund and	14	Mary, would you administer please the oaths to
15	refusals and lack of records in particular, but	15	those who are on the panel. Can we start with Andrew
16	telling your stories as well.	16	Bragg, please.
17	But first let me speak about that witness, the	17	MR ANDREW JAMES BRAGG (sworn)
18	witness who is anonymous. You will not see that	18	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Gary McKelvey.
19	witness on screen, I will. For that reason, although	19	MR GARY HUGH MCKELVEY (affirmed)
20	Mary will administer the oaths and affirmations in the	20	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Ruby Gilkes.
21	usual way to those witnesses that we have on the panel	21	MS RUBY PERLINE GILKES (affirmed)
22	before you, I will be swearing in the witness who is	22	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Peter Frith.
23	in this building but is not seen.	23	MR PETER FRITH (affirmed)
24	I have granted that witness anonymity and so	24	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Rachael Tersteeg.
25	I make this order: the name and address of witness	25	ŭ
	1		2
1	MS RACHAEL JOY TERSTEEG (sworn)	1	mind being a little closer to the microphone. That's
2	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Robert Bamforth.	2	perfect, thank you.
3	MR ROBERT NORMAN BAMFORTH (sworn)	3	You had a broken ankle but it was quite a severe
4	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Now, Ms Fraser Butlin, we are not	4	break?
4 5	going to hear I think from our anonymous witness this		
	morning and so that witness will take the oath, or the	5 6	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Oh, yeah, everything was broke right
6			across. It was hanging one a different way. Then
7	affirmation I should say, at the start of this	7	I shouldn't have been skateboarding at 40, really, should I?
8	afternoon's session.	8	
9	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Yes, sir, that is correct.	9	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were taken off to hospital and yo
10	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Very well.	10	required surgery to repair it?
11	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thank you.	11	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.
12	Examined by MS FRASER BUTLIN	12	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Bolting the ankle back together; is
13	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, just so that those listening will	13	that right?
14	understand the plan this morning, we are going to hear	14	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes, they done about 20-odd screws
15	from each witness individually and then we will move	15	and bolts in it and plates and everything.
16	to a more thematic discussion together.	16	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Your recollection is that you were the
17	Robert, if we can start with you. You had	17	unable to work for about eight months after the
18	an accident in 1986 when you were skateboarding with	18	accident?
19	your sons; is that right?	19	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.
20	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.	20	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Why was that?
21	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you tell us what happened?	21	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, I just got so ill. It was not
22	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, I broke my ankle right off, my	22	the leg, the leg's never been right but it wasn't
23	foot right off, and it was really bad and I got taken	23	that. I was just ill from everything. I caught
24	to the hospital.	24	everything while I was in the hospital and I just was
25	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Just while you are speaking, would you	25	ill for eight months.
	3		4

MS FRASER BUTLIN: After the operation to bolt back the 1 2 ankle, what were you told about giving blood in the

3 future?

4 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, they said when you have had 5

an operation you shouldn't give blood for -- they

didn't say forever, they just said you shouldn't give blood for a while, you know, a year or something like

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9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: At the time of the operation, were you 10 told anything about having blood transfusions? Sorry,

11 you will need to --

12 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: No. Sorry. No.

13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thank you. About two years after the

14 operation you decided to give blood again?

15 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you did so again in 1993 as well, 16

17 is that right?

18 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

19 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you tell us what happened after you

20 gave blood in 1993?

21 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, I got a letter from the blood

22 transfusion people telling me I've got, what's it, HC

23 something or other --

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Hepatitis C?

MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: No, they didn't say --

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1 Hospital were doing a pilot scheme, doing tests on it, 2 and he sent me straight there rather than to the local

3 hospital, which wouldn't have known anything about it.

4 MS FRASER BUTLIN: How much could the GP tell you about 5 the hepatitis at that point?

6 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Not a lot, no. I don't think any of 7 them knew much about it.

8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you went off to King's College,

9 London, and what happened when you got there?

10 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, they just -- I saw different 11 doctors and they just kept me under checkups and all

12 that and then they invited me to go on the trial,

13 there was 200 of us or something went on the trial

14 for, what was it, the ribavirin and ...

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And interferon?

16 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: And interferon.

17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: We will come to the trial in just

18

a minute but if we just go back to the first

19 appointment you had at King's. What can you recall

20 about that appointment in terms of the discussions

21 with the doctors about how you contracted hepatitis C?

MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: I said to them, "How did I get 22

23 this?", because I said, "I have never been a junkie;

24 I'm not promiscuous", and he just said, "Well, you

25 know" -- he sort of wasn't too clear about how you got

MS FRASER BUTLIN: HCV? 1

2 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: HCV, that's it. But it said I could

3 only get it through sharing needles as a drug addict

or sex. So you can imagine what my wife of seven

5 years thought when she heard that. You know what

6 I mean.

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7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: After you received that letter what

8 happened with your marriage?

9 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: It just finished. It broke up.

10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And how quickly did that --

11 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Oh, within weeks. You know,

because -- I don't know, she thought I'd either been

13 playing around or she just didn't want to know how

14 I had got the infection. You know?

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You then went to live with your mum at

16 that point?

17 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You also went to see your GP?

19 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: What did your GP tell you about 20

21 hepatitis C?

22 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Oh, that's the luckiest thing I had

because he had just read up on -- because they had

24 only just found out about hepatitis C, they didn't

know what it was, and he found out that King's College 25

it neither, you know.

2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think at that appointment he asked if you had had any significant operations?

3 4 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: That's it, yes. He did, yes. He

5 asked me if I had had any operation and I said I had

6 had my leg -- then it was a few years before and, you

7 know, he took -- said, "Well, that could have been how

8 you got it", and that's the first time I knew that you

9 could get it from anything other than what they had

10 said you could get it, you know.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: At that point you had your liver 11

12 function tested and what were the results of that? MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Weren't too bad at first, you know, 13

14 and then slowly it got worse.

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you were monitored for quite 16 a while, I think, weren't you, until about 2001 when

17 you started on the ribavirin and interferon?

18 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

19 MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think the delay was because funding

20 wasn't available until then; is that right?

21 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

22 MS FRASER BUTLIN: With that first round of treatment, was

23 it successful? Did it clear the virus?

24 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, they said it did and then

25 I went back a month later and they said it hadn't,

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1 which was quite devastating because you lose faith in 2 what's happening then, don't you, you know what 3 I mean? Because I was quite happy having the 4 treatment, because anyone who has had the treatment 5 realises it is horrendous and, you know, then you 6 think, well, I'm going to have to have this again 7 or -- well, I didn't know if they would give it to me 8 again or whatever, you know. I asked them what would 9 happen, you know. 10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What can you tell us about how the 11

first treatment round was, what was it like for you? 12 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: The funniest thing was the first day, 13 I went and had the injection, and I got home and they 14 told me not to be on my own that night, but I -- my 15 son was with me and I said to him, "Go home, I feel 16 all right". I said, "I don't feel that good but 17 I feel all right", then about half an hour, an hour 18 after he went I couldn't control my body. I started 19 going into a ball, my muscles -- it was really odd and 20 my arms are coming up, my legs are coming up, and it 21 was really odd. But I never had that after that, you 22 know. The next -- all the other times it was all 23 right. But you are just so tired and you just -- it

25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You then had a second course of 9

is a nightmare really.

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1 know what I mean. I actually didn't put that in my 2 statement but -- it -- you know, I thought if I'm not 3 going to be able to work -- because I didn't know if 4 I was going to be able to work or not -- I thought if 5 I didn't work how do I pay my bills? I couldn't pay 6 a mortgage, so I bought a one bedroom flat that 7 I didn't have a mortgage on, you know.

8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you were diagnosed and moved from 9 being an aircraft engineer with a regular salary to 10 being a barber?

MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes. 11

12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Where you were, effectively, 13 self-employed?

14 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Then you had the treatment?

MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes. 16

17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you were worried you wouldn't meet 18 the bills?

19 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, yes, because I couldn't work 20 every day. I would get up some days, especially when 21 you had to inject, the days you had to inject you have

22 to eat before you do it all. I lived on my own, so

23 you try and cook a meal, get something to eat, then it

24 takes you hours sometimes to get down to eating, you

11

25 know. treatment in 2008 and that did clear the virus?

2 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes, but I had that for 18 months.

3 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Were you very unwell for those 4

18 months?

5 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: In terms of your working life, once you were diagnosed with hepatitis C, at that point you

8 were working as an aircraft engineer?

9 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What happened in relation to your 11 working life once you were diagnosed?

12 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: I had to give that up. You know, two 13 things: one, it was physical and I couldn't really do 14 it; and, two, working with metal, you cut yourself and 15 that, and I was terrified that -- because I might work 16 on a bit and someone else has to work on it and I was 17 terrified that I was going to give it to someone else, 18 you know.

> Lucky, when I left school I learnt to be a barber and I have got -- managed to get a job in a barber shop, so at least I kept working, but it cost me -the first treatment cost me -- I had a house but I had to get rid of that because I was starting to get in financial trouble. And I sold the house and bought a flat because I had to keep a roof over my head, you

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1 MS FRASER BUTLIN: How did you come to hear about the 2 Skipton Fund?

MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: My son had a friend who -- his wife had got infected and she had been gone through the Skipton Fund and got paid out and I never met her but my son found out about it so I just got in touch with

them and got the forms through and just sent them off.

8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So before you decided to contact 9 Skipton and make that contact because of the friend of 10 your son, had anybody mentioned the Skipton Fund to

11 you before that?

12 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Not at all, no.

13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you applied in 2009?

14 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: For your application did you have any 16 medical records in relation to your operation?

17 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: I tried to get medical records and 18 then Lister said they didn't have any records.

19 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So the hospital said they had no 20 records?

21 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes. Funny enough, the second time

22 they'd got them because they'd got no record of me 23 having any blood, they said they've got no record of 24 me having any blood.

25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we just take it sequentially.

1	MR RUBERT BAMFORTH: Yes, sorry.
2	MS FRASER BUTLIN: It's okay. You applied for your
3	records first time and what were you told that time
4	from the Lister?
5	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Just didn't have them.
6	MS FRASER BUTLIN: No records. Then you tried to get the
7	records a second time, and what were you told then?
8	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, they come up with some records
9	but it was only about my broken leg, nothing about
10	well, I did think I'd sent you a copy.
11	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you recall what those records
12	contained when you did get a few records from them?
13	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, it just said about how
14	they'd it's words I don't even understand, you know
15	what I mean. These doctors use words, you know what
16	I mean? As far as I was concerned it was a broken
17	ankle, but it was H, B, C and D, and all that. It
18	didn't mean a lot to me what it said.
19	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You also obtained your GP records is
20	that right?
21	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.
22	MS FRASER BUTLIN: But there was nothing at all in those
23	records about blood transfusion?
24	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: No, I don't think they had anything
25	there about the broken leg, let alone a blood
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1	presumably as a result of consultation between you and
2	your doctor. Of course, if you do obtain any other
3	supporting medical records then please return these
4	along with your application form and we will consider
5	it again."
6	So those letters they are referring to were
7	letters from your treating doctors in the 2000s?
8	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.
9	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Who had said to you the likely cause of
10	your infection was a transfusion?
11	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes, or blood product.
12	MS FRASER BUTLIN: That second sentence that says, or
13	course, if you do obtain any other supporting medical
14	records, were there any other supporting medical
15	records that you could have got hold of?
16	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: No, because the hospital said the
17	didn't have any at that time.
18	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Did you appeal this decision?
19	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: No.
20	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Am I right that's because you have
21	quite severe dyslexia?
22	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes.
23	MS FRASER BUTLIN: So for you that just wasn't an option?

24 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: You know, just -- you look at forms

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and it just -- it's a nightmare. So I just give it

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1	transfusion.
2	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Your application was then refused an
3	you sent further documents to the fund including
4	letters from doctors since your diagnosis setting out
5	their view that it had been a transfusion acquired
6	infection; is that right?
7	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes. They reckoned because I didn'
8	have it before I had the broken leg and then I had it
9	straight afterwards, they said it must have been that
10	and but the Skipton just said no.
11	MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you supplied those letters to
12	Skipton. Then I just want to look at the refusal from
13	Skipton, if we can put that on the screen.
14	WITN4414013, please.
15	It is just the middle two paragraphs, and reading
16	out so everyone can follow:
17	"It is with regret that I must advise you your
18	application has been declined. This is due to the
19	lack of supporting confirmation that you were treated
20	with NHS blood or blood products prior to
21	September 1991 and that this was therefore the likely
22	source of your infection with hepatitis C.
23	"On two of the letters we have received (one from
24	2000 and one from 2001) it mentions a past transfusion
25	but in the absence of medical records this was
	14
1	up. Everything I have had in life I have had to work
2	for so I don't expect to get anything from anyone, you
3	know.
4	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And the Inquiry has seen the forms tha
5	are required for an appeal and so they are familiar
6	with the detail that is hard to provide.
7	Thank you.
8	MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: That's all right.
9	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: May I just ask this, looking at the
10 11	dates of the information which recorded that the
	probable cause was a blood transfusion, both of those
12	dates are before the Skipton Fund began. MS FRASER BUTLIN: Yes.
13	
14	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: And indeed before it had been
15 16	announced. So there could have been no prospect of
17	that being said for gain at all. MS FRASER BUTLIN: Indeed.
18 19	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Thank you.
20	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thank you, Robert.
21	Rachael, you are here to talk about your late husband Cornelius, who was always referred to as Cornelius
22	by you and the family.
23	MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That's right, yes.

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you wish.

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So we will also refer to him as Con, as

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MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Thank you. 1 2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Con was admitted to hospital on 3 10 April 1987, is that right? 4 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That is correct. 5 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Why was that? MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: He had flu-like symptoms, he was 6 7 feeling very unwell, he wasn't able to walk very well. 8 It was as if he was having a stroke. Wycombe Hospital 9 transferred him during the night because he 10 deteriorated. He went to Oxford, Radcliffe Infirmary. 11 They did scans and, when I arrived the next morning, 12 they said he had an abscess and that was growing 13 underneath the skull and on his brain, and they were 14 going to monitor the abscess and then they were going 15 to operate when they felt that that was the right 16 time. 17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And the cerebral abscesses had 18 developed because he had contracted beta-haemolytic 19 streptococcus, is that right? MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That's right. 20 21 MS FRASER BUTLIN: A craniotomy was planned for 13 April 22 1987, but it didn't actually take place until 23 15 April, is that right? MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That's right, yes. 24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What was the reason for the delay?

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: The doctor first of all had said that he they wanted the abscess to get a little bit bigger so that when they would drain the abscess they would be able to hopefully aspirate as much of the pus as possible, and they were doing a CT scan to monitor that progress. As we were waiting for that decision to be made,

which was then two days, he wasn't able to see out of his left eye because the abscess was on the right side of his brain and the whole of his left side was paralysed. He couldn't speak properly, the side of his mouth was turned up, so it was as if he had had a stroke. Those were all of his symptoms.

14 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can I just turn to a document, 15 WITN2720002.

16 It is what looks to be the blood ordering form for 17 13 April.

The next page, please.

19 It is not entirely straightforward to read but we 20 can see the date of 13 April 1987 that blood had been 21 requested.

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. 22

23 MS FRASER BUTLIN: On the left of the date there is a box 24 where a number 2 has been written, and below and to 25 the left we can see cells.

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1 Your understanding of this form is that some form 2 of blood product or packed cells had been ordered for 3 13 April for that date of an operation? MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, yes. 4 5 MS FRASER BUTLIN: We can also see, just to give it some 6 context, on the right-hand side, under the heading 7 "For laboratory use only", Con's blood group there as 8 9 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.

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10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So your understanding, Rachael, was 11 that blood had been ordered in advance of the

12 operation?

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. I didn't know that at the time 13 14 though.

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: No, but subsequently that's what you 16 managed to piece together?

17 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.

18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Con had the surgery on 15 April.

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Correct. 19

20 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Then in the recovery room the surgeon,

21 Dr Teddy, came to talk to you?

22 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: He did.

23 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What did he tell you?

24 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: He told me the operation had gone 25

well but they'd had to give him a blood transfusion,

1 but they would have to wait and see how his recovery 2 would be because they didn't know what damage may have 3 been done with the paralysis and how his body would

5 physiotherapy he would need.

6 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Did Dr Teddy explain to you why they 7 had given a blood transfusion?

respond, how he would come out of that, how much

8 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: No.

9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you tell us a little bit about how 10 Con was after that operation?

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Not -- well, initially, sort of it 11 12 took -- not very with it, of course. His head had 13 been shaved and he had bandages around his head He 14 was in intensive care. He was -- he asked how the 15 operation had gone. So, yes, just asking me really as

16 much information as I knew about the operation. 17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: But gradually Con recovered from the

18 operation, didn't he? To a degree where he was back

19 to work and enjoying family life?

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, but in between times, while he 20 21 was still in hospital, they -- he had a seizure, pre

22 the main operation, but there was also another

23 seizure, and they felt when they did another CT scan 24 that he needed a second aspiration of the abscess to

25 be done, and they wanted to do this as an experiment

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1 with a local anesthetic under the scanner to see how 1 2 a patient would respond without having to go through a 2 3 3 general anaesthetic. But he said it was the 4 absolutely worst thing he had ever been through. 4 5 The -- all the things you could see around you, the 5 6 6 noise, the fact that, although you couldn't feel 7 anything, it was a traumatic experience, in hindsight, 7 8 8 9 9 **MS FRASER BUTLIN:** Between 1987, when he had that surgery, 10 and 2008, when we are going to come onto about 10 11 hepatitis C, can you tell us what Con was like and 11 12 what life was like together with him? 12 13 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: He was a lovely husband. He was 13 hepatitis C? 14 really, yes, just so special. The first year was so 15 15 difficult because he was recovering from all the 16 procedures, from the anesthetic, from the emotional 16 17 trauma. He would try to walk himself a little bit 17 18 further each day to try to help the mobility of his 18 19 left leg, which he was able to walk, which was 19

amazing. He did as much as he could do improve himself. And as the -- I mean, there was one time I remember, he was -- he got down on his knees on the

22 23 floor, he was banging on the floor, like this, and he 24 said, "Why me? Why did I have to go through this?"

25 But that was just getting through that -- that first

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year was really, really tough.

We had our two daughters who were young Yeah, as he improved, we had a sort of small vegetable area garden, he would plant runner beans. We would go out sometimes as a family. We would just do things with the children. And those years weren't always easy but we got through them. He wasn't allowed to drive for the first year. I would take him to work every day and pick him up from work.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: But he was working through that time? MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Through that year, yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: How did Con come to know that he had

14 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Out of the blue. We had a letter one day from Oxford Hospital with a form in it saying to just go and get a blood test done. So we duly went to Wycombe Hospital, the blood test was done, and we had a letter from the GP saying, "Please can you come in and see me". We went to see Dr Graham, and he said, "We need you to go and have another blood test because this is indicating that you may have hepatitis C". So we were really shocked about that.

Con went and had another blood test done. Now that was confirmed. And at the time, because he had got

24 25 private medical insurance, we privately went to go and

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1 see Dr Gorard.

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2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: We will come to that in just a moment, 3 but if we go back to that letter with the blood test 4 form in, did you ever get to the bottom of why that 5 was sent to Con?

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Not at all. The -- Dr Graham, he 6 7 didn't know why it had been sent from Oxford, no idea 8 at all. There was nothing in his records of why it 9 should be sent to us. We didn't have any idea.

10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: At that point was he still under any 11 follow up from the craniotomy?

12 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: No.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: He wasn't under followup from the 13 14 craniotomy and his GP hadn't requested that blood 15

16 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That is correct.

17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So as far as you're concerned, that 18 request was a complete surprise?

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Absolutely, out of the blue. 19

20 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You have put in your statement you 21 think that was about March/April 2008?

22 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.

23 MS FRASER BUTLIN: As you said, you then had a private

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24 referral to a liver specialist?

25 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And a liver biopsy was performed? 1

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. 2

3 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And what did that show?

4 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That Con was positive for 5 hepatitis C, genotype 1 I think, yes.

6 MS FRASER BUTLIN: That's what you've put here.

7 Do you recall whether they said anything about how 8 much damage to Con's liver there was at that point?

9 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: No.

10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: The biopsy was on 21 May 2008. Then 11 Con started treatment with interferon and ribavirin in 12 the August.

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, that's right. Yes. 13

14 **MS FRASER BUTLIN:** How did Con cope with that treatment? 15

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: He had 48 treatments. He had to

inject himself once a week, he had the interferon tablets daily to back that up, and it was an awful year. On a Friday evening, he'd -- he'd already planned and thought through that he would have the injection on the Friday evening because of the side

22 effects of feeling poorly, flu, bad headaches, aches

23 and pains, so that on a Monday morning he would have 24 been through the worst to be able to go back in to

25 work. And when he was having very bad days, again

- 1 I would take him into work and pick him up.
- 2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Con cleared the hepatitis with that
- 3 treatment.
- 4 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: He did, yes.
- 5 MS FRASER BUTLIN: But he was then very unwell after that?
- MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, that's correct. 6
- 7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And he was diagnosed with oesophageal
- 8 stricture, leading to cancer of the larynx --
- MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That was just a year later, yes. 9
- 10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In 2010. And then porphyria cutanea
- 11 tarda, a skin condition with painful lesions on some
- 12 exposed skin.
- 13 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.
- 14 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In terms of your home, in 2011 you
- 15 moved house.
- MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That's right. 16
- 17 **MS FRASER BUTLIN:** Why was that?
- MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: We moved because Con's health had 18
- 19 deteriorated. He was struggling getting up and down
- 20 the stairs. We only had a bathroom upstairs and
- 21 I know that he would used to -- he would say, "Well,
- 22 I'll try and hang on as long as I can before I need to
- 23 use the bathroom because then I don't have to go up
- 24 the stairs". And in the afternoons he would -- oh,
- 25 every weekend, you know, when he wasn't working, he 25
- 1 to the ICU ward. He had got influenza A, very badly, 2 and he was just very poorly.
- 3 MS FRASER BUTLIN: He had major organ failure at that 4
- 5 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.

point?

- MS FRASER BUTLIN: But somehow he pulled through that? 6
- 7 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.
- 8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: But had quite complex ongoing health 9 difficulties?
- 10 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.
- 11 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you tell us what they were.
- 12 I think he had myasthenia gravis?
- 13 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, that's right. Being in
- 14 hospital I would go to the hospital every -- well,
- 15 three times a day, visiting hours, once I was allowed
- 16 to anyway, and his health -- he wasn't able to swallow
- 17 properly. He had pains in his hands, in his muscles,
- 18 walking was very, very difficult for him. Life was
- 19 a real challenge.
- 20 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And Con had a tube fitted so that he
- 21 didn't have to eat through the mouth. It was a PEG
- 22 fitted.
- 23 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That's right.
- 24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And he had polyneuropathy, the pain in
- 25 his hands and feet, myasthenia gravis?

- would have to go to bed, lie down and rest.
- 2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you moved to a flat in 2011 to avoid
- 3 that problem?
- 4 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, we sold the house, it was
- 5 a semi-detached house. We sold the house and moved to
- 6 a flat and -- so that there was -- it was just easy
- 7 access for him to get to the bathrooms.
- 8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Then in 2013 you went to Holland for 9 a funeral of a friend?
- 10 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Correct.
- MS FRASER BUTLIN: And Con collapsed?
- MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. 12
- 13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Again, can you tell us what happened
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- 15 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. He had flu-like symptoms on
- 16 the Saturday evening, Easter Saturday. He felt
- 17 really -- really quite poorly. He had a slight
 - temperature and by the evening he seemed completely
- disorientated. He didn't really -- he wasn't coherent 19
- 20 in his speech. He was really poorly. And I phoned
- 21 the ambulance. They did all the obs, vital obs. His
- 22 blood pressure was really, really low. His heart rate
- 23 was racing. He was very poorly. They took him in to
- 24 the Apeldoorn Hospital. Within minutes there was
- 25 a whole team around him and -- anyway, he was taken up
 - 26
 - MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.
- 2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Con also struggled significantly
- 3 mentally. Do you want to tell us something about that
- 4 and how it was for you and the family?
- 5 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: He struggled again with all -- you
- 6 know, what he had been through, felt that he had been
- 7 dealt a bad lot in life really regarding his health.
- 8 He got very depressed. We got some private
- 9 counselling to try to help him through the emotional
- 10 and the physical side effects of what he had been
- 11 through. We found a very good therapist.
- 12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Then in 2016 Con fell and had an open
- 13 wound from his shoulder to the elbow which wouldn't
- 14 heal?
- 15 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.
- 16 MS FRASER BUTLIN: From that wound he developed sepsis?
- 17 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.
- 18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And he died from organ failure on
- 19 5 September 2016.
- 20 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, that's right.
- 21 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Throughout all of these illnesses and
- 22 the ongoing ill health, was there ever a discussion
- 23 with you about the relevance of hepatitis C in Con's
- 24 immune system and ability to cope with viruses?
- 25 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: We did go and see an immunologist

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1 and she recorded that because of what he had been 2 through, that it can affect your immune system. When 3 Con first had the treatment, we had to sign 4 a disclaimer that he wouldn't father any children. We 5 had to -- we were just aware that any colds that he 6 got could easily become pneumonia, chest infections 7 and throughout the period of -- from 2013 to 2016 we 8 always had antibiotics at home. He could 9 self-medicate. He was often on -- there was periods 10 when he had to take steroids to help him out of the 11 infection and his immune system was just -- and 12 anything that was going he would pick it up. 13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In 2016, before he was -- had the 14 wound, Con had made an application to the Skipton 15 16 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. 17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: When he made that application, what 18 medical records had Con been able to obtain? 19 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: At the point of first application we 20 hadn't applied for any. He took a great interest in 21 news and he had read that the Skipton Fund had been 22 set up and that the government had now recognised 23 about the contamination, the Infected Blood Inquiry. 24 So he applied for an application form which was filled

They said to us in the Skipton Fund that we would need to have more evidence and suggested we write to Oxford Health Authority.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: So once the first application had been declined, Con then wrote back to the Skipton Fund. I just want to look at that letter.

COLL0000014, please, page 9.

We see there, again I will just read it out:

"I have only been able to obtain documents showing the blood products were delivered but unfortunately I have not been able to find any confirmation that they were administered during the procedure as the 'Recovery Area Record Sheet' was left completely blank (copy's already forwarded)."

We will come to the next bit in a moment. All that Con had been able to obtain was the document we looked at earlier and a blank recovery area form; is that right?

19 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And there were no notes from the 20 21 operation and for the full 12 hours later?

22 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That is correct.

23 MS FRASER BUTLIN: The first record was just returned from

25 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Correct yes.

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: Just a complete blank. Then if we pick up the letter again:

in by the GP and we sent that to the Skipton Fund.

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"Due to my hospitalisation I do not have enough time to get any more supporting information regarding the Craniotomy procedure but I want to put the following to the panel for consideration:

- "1. My wife was informed by the doctor after the procedure that I was given blood and I have enclosed her statement. She is willing to testify under oath if required.
- "2. I was informed of the blood transfusion at a later stage when they explained the procedure (Craniotomy) to me. Again I am also willing to testify.
- "3. I was also told that there is always loss of blood during the Craniotomy procedure and does often required additional blood products.

"It is difficult to obtain further information due to the long time elapsed and the fact that the Radcliffe Infirmary no longer exists and the records were stored by the Oxfordshire University Hospitals NHS Trust."

If we just go back to the top of this letter, sir. I misled you. This is 2014. Apologies.

25 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Yes, it is 2014, that statement. 31

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Apologies, indeed it was my typographical error in my notes, apologies. So 2014.

We see there that Con has offered a statement from you and if we could turn to that, it is page 10 of the same document please, Lawrence.

We have a short statement which is signed by you. we've just redacted the signature. You have set out what happened to Con and five lines from the bottom:

"After the operation the doctor told me that the operation had gone well and that they had given my husband a blood transfusion during the procedure."

So that's what Con provided to Skipton, but that application was also declined.

14 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, it was.

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we carry on to page 13 of this 16 document we see the refusal. The first part is 17 largely a standard form letter, but if we go across 18 the page -- sorry, to the next page, we see that the 19 appeal panel had met.

> "At the meeting yesterday the Panel reviewed the entire file of papers held by the Skipton Fund in connection with your application and all the additional information supplied for the purpose of the appeal. We noted that there was no record of any transfusion in your notes. The Panel, including our

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expert members, was of the view, supported by the clinical records we have seen, that there is insufficient evidence to show that you were treated by a blood transfusion.

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"The hospital records show that you underwent a successful drainage of a brain abscess in 1987. This is a procedure for which a transfusion would only rarely be necessary. The hospital discharge record gives full details of the procedure and does not mention any complication which might necessitate a transfusion. You had a good haemoglobin level of 13.5 before surgery; that would make a transfusion less likely to be needed.

"As a result of these considerations we were not satisfied that it is probable that the infection resulted from qualifying NHS treatment and accordingly regret that we must refuse your appeal."

Con then challenged that response from the Skipton, particularly that it made no reference at all to your witness statement, your note of what you had been told; is that right?

22 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That's right, yes.

23 MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we go to page 25, Con responded again, and this time you provided a very lengthy witness statement of what had happened?

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has reconsidered your appeal after one of the specialist medical members reviewed the whole file of your medical records. The conclusion is that on the existing records there is still no reason to conclude that it is probable that you were given a blood transfusion.

"There was no operation or anaesthetic record and it is uncertain why they should be missing. The post-operational neurosurgical notes were also missing. We concluded that this is because they are normally kept separately from other records (partly because the paper on which they are written is to large to fit into the general records file).

"It is worth pointing out that the blood transfusion records are often kept separately within the hospital. You may wish to approach the Manager of the John Radcliffe blood service and ask for a check to be made for the relevant dates. If any information becomes available, the Panel will of course consider it. In the meantime the Panel's decision must stand."

So even in this refusal there is still no reference to your sworn witness statement.

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: No. No. That was never recognised or acknowledged at all.

25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: There's nothing in the correspondence

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. 1

2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: That's what we have on the screen. If 3 we -- it sets out what had happened. In fact, if we 4 turn over the page, we have the paragraph dealing with 5 your conversation with Dr Teddy:

> "Dr Teddy, the surgeon, was also present and he told me that the surgery had gone well but they had given him a blood transfusion during the operation."

If we go to the next page. You had taken this statement and it was sworn in front of solicitors.

11 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.

12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So it was effectively a sworn witness 13 statement?

14 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, it was. Definitely.

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And this whole statement, with the note 16 that it had been sworn, was provided to the Skipton

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18 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.

19 MS FRASER BUTLIN: The appeal was then reconsidered but 20

21 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, that's right.

22 MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we can go to a final document, 23 page 35 of this document. We pick up the second,

24 third and fourth paragraphs:

"The Chair has asked me to tell you that the Panel

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1 with the Skipton Fund in relation to the nature of the 2 hepatitis C test, that it was out of the blue and 3 unexpected?

4 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: That's right. Nothing at all. No. 5 MS FRASER BUTLIN: How did that make you and Con feel about the process?

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Well, we were just devastated each time. He was -- four times he was rejected by the Skipton Trust. He wasn't well. I know that sometimes he would start a letter and because of the problem with his hands, he would come back to it and do it in sort of stages on the computer. It does mention that -- the operation, the abscess was drained, but Con actually, as far as I understand it, had sort of a full head surgery. He had -- it was about a three or four inch scar on his head.

When -- you know, as his health deteriorated really in the last sort of two years, his hair thinned so much and you could see the scar on his head. You could always feel this little sort of indentation on his skull as if there was a tiny piece of bone missing. But I'm not a medic, I don't know, but the way that the operation was explained by the medical member on the Panel, to me, didn't feel quite right and it was just really frustrating. You know, we just

1	felt all the while just never being believed. And	1	you.
2	then when they said here where is it? Well,	2	Apologies, I should have said that. That was what
3	they couldn't understand why the existing records	3	the whispering behind me was, they just haven't quite
4	weren't there, as if we had taken them out ourselves	4	reached everybody who needs them.
5	or something. It was just awful.	5	Gary, you are here to speak about your late
6	MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think Con felt quite strongly that	6	father, Henry.
7	they were minimising the surgery that he had	7	MR GARY MCKELVEY: (Inaudible)
8	undergone; is that right?	8	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: You will have to bring that a little
9	MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes.	9	bit closer to you. It is difficult because you are
10	MS FRASER BUTLIN: That they seem to be suggesting it was	10	talking across. So if you speak into it, that will
11	a simple abscess drainage when, as you said, he had	11	help. If you can.
12	a very significant scar?	12	MR GARY MCKELVEY: Thank you.
13	MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. He did, yes.	13	Yes, sorry, on behalf of my mother who is unable
14	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I note the time that we would	14	to make the trip. So yes, my father.
15	normally take our morning break, but, given that we	15	MS FRASER BUTLIN: In 1980 your dad developed a stomach
16	started a little late, I wonder if I might take one	16	ulcer which later ruptured?
17	more person through their	17	MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, I would like to correct something
18	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Yes, that will be a good idea	18	maybe within the statement.
19	I think.	19	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Of course.
20	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thank you.	20	MR GARY MCKELVEY: I read it in detail over the weekend
21	Gary, you are here to speak about your late	21	and it mentions 1980, 1981. I did speak with my
22	father yes, I'm sorry, we still have a slight	22	mother yesterday. She tells me it was 1981. So just
23	problem with some documents so I'm going to move on to	23	to make that clear.
24	speak to Gary and then after the break we should all	24	MS FRASER BUTLIN: During treatment for that ruptured
25	be sorted out and we will return to the other three of	25	stomach ulcer, your dad was given a significant amount
	37		38
1	of blood?	1	areas of the UK and the Harland & Wolff cranes are
2	MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, I believe it was 18 pints.	2	there, so thank you.
3	MS FRASER BUTLIN: How did you and your mum know that he	3	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Then in 1990 you noticed something
4	had been given that amount of blood?	4	wasn't quite right with him?
5	MR GARY MCKELVEY: I have got to say I wasn't in the	5	MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, okay, he is in Belfast. I'm at
6	country at the time. I was in the United States. But	6	that time living near Luton so I wasn't there, but he
7	she was told by the medical professionals at the time,	7	locked himself out of the house, yeah, and he climbed
8	you know, with that type of surgery, the seriousness	8	over the back fence and he bruised his thigh. And
9	of that ulcer, that he had been given significant	9	that bruising was excessive, much more than one would
10	blood and it was 18 pints and she confirmed that again	10	have expected, and it didn't heal up. So he went to
11	yesterday. Because I said, "I have got 18 pints in my	11	his GP.
12	head" and she said "Yes, that's correct, that's my	12	Again, my understanding at the time, it is a long

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understanding".

about 1990?

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Your dad recovered fairly well?

issues, no other health problems, dental problems.

to say is we were very grateful for the skills of the

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And he was working in a shipping yard?

MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, he was working in Harland & Wolff

and I noticed in the -- there is a montage of certain

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surgeons who did the job in 1981.

tail over the weekend speak with my was 1981. So just ent for that ruptured a significant amount & Wolff cranes are ou noticed something e is in Belfast. I'm at sn't there, but he eah, and he climbed ed his thigh. And more than one would up. So he went to Again, my understanding at the time, it is a long time ago, that he had some blood tests and the blood 13 14 platelet count was apparently very low. MR GARY MCKELVEY: He recovered totally, you know. MS FRASER BUTLIN: And what was his health like then until 16 transfusions; is that right? 17 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, he would have been given and MR GARY MCKELVEY: Health was fine, returned to work, no 18 transfusions to boost that blood platelet level, yes. 19 Back to his usual self and, you know, what we've got 20 21 Christmas 1990?

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So for a period he was then given some

I don't know how many but some blood platelet

MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were then back in Belfast around

22 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Correct.

23 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And your dad was taken into accident 24 and emergency on New Year's eve?

25 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, I did take him myself, yes.

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1 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What was wrong at that point? 2 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Just his ankles, both, were very, very 3 swollen, excessively swollen, and he was just weak. 4 I can't remember whether he struggled to work to be 5 honest but I felt it was serious enough on New Year's 6 eve to take him to A&E. 7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Your dad then had a stroke in 8 January 1991? 9 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Correct, he did, yes. 10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: But how did your dad's hepatitis C come 11 to be diagnosed? 12 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Honestly spoken, it was -- we were 13 never told it was hepatitis C until -- my mother 14 recalls this as 17 March. Whether that is exactly 15 correct, I don't know but that's what she remembers 16 and the registrar or the junior registrar and, again, 17 I don't know, a Dr Paul Kettle had been to 18 a conference apparently in London and, again, I don't 19 know how accurate that is but he told her that having 20 been and having listened he was of the opinion that my 21 father had contracted hepatitis C through the blood 22 transfusions that he would have had in 1981. 23 There was no explanation of what hepatitis C was. 24 That's the first time we had ever heard the term.

1 stroke, so it was March 1991? 2 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, it was a couple of months after 3 the stroke, yes. 4 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Your dad was extremely unwell from then 5 6 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, he was. 7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What can you tell us about that? 8 MR GARY MCKELVEY: After the stroke he had come home but 9 frankly he just slept most of the time. He wasn't 10 able to do anything. I did come home on a few 11 occasions because he didn't know how unwell he was, 12 and we didn't tell him how unwell he was. We knew, or 13 we had been told that it was terminal, yeah, but we 14 didn't tell him that. So let's say the level of his 15 unwellness was that, you know, I had to toilet him. 16 And it is not a pleasant thing to do, you know, with 17 a 57 year old man, and, yes, he was only 57 at the 18 time. 19

At the time I probably thought that was quite old, you know, but on reflection I'm now four years older, almost to the day, than he was when he died. So you have a different perspective as time goes on.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Your dad then was taken back into
 hospital --

25 MR GARY MCKELVEY: He was.

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said, "Listen, remember what was spoken all those

years ago, that my dad received this blood which

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And he died on 9 June 1991. 1 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Correct, yes. 2 3 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Could we turn to your father's death 4 certificate. 5 WITN0525003, please. 6 We see in section 10 the cause of death: 7 "I(a) Hepatic failure. 8 "(b) Viral hepatitis. 9 "II Cerebrovascular accident. 10 "Thrombocytopenia." 11 I'm indicating that because obviously it is 12 relevant to the Skipton Fund discussions but that's 13 how the death certificate was certified. 14 How did you come to hear about the Skipton Fund? 15 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Okay. I'm not 100 per cent sure,

I have got to be honest. But, you know, on one of

a functioning Assembly, there was a Health Minister,

Michelle O'Neill, and I remember reading something

online that within Northern Ireland they were looking

at some compensation or recognition of people who had

those few occasions when Northern Ireland has

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And that was told to your mum after the

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3 Dr Kettle believed was infected from the surgery in 4 1981. Let's get some details on the Skipton Fund and 5 make an application". 6 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you placed that sort of 7 announcement from Michelle O'Neill to have been around 8 2017, when the announcement was for improved financial 9 support --10 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes. MS FRASER BUTLIN: -- in Northern Ireland? 11 12 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Correct, yes. I think it was December, 13 14 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Had your mum or you been told anything 15 before about the Skipton Fund at any time? 16 MR GARY MCKELVEY: No, nothing. Never. 17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you tell us what happened then in 18

terms of getting the form completed?

MR GARY MCKELVEY: Right. My mother tried to complete it.

Basically we didn't have the medical records that were required and then we were told that there was going to be a change in how it was administered and it would be

administered locally in Northern Ireland, and then we would need to apply through this -- I can't remember,

25 the -- the BSO?

it was only then that I'd spoke with my mother and 43

been infected by so-called contaminated infected

within the media, I hadn't heard of this at all, and

blood. And, again, up until that point, let's say

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1	MS FRASER BUTLIN: It is the Business Services
2	Organisation who run the Northern Ireland Blood
3	Support Scheme, NIBS.
4	In terms of the records your mum, I think, went to
5	her own GP.
6	MR GARY MCKELVEY: She did.
7	MS FRASER BUTLIN: What did her own GP said about
8	completing the form?
9	MR GARY MCKELVEY: He said he could not complete the form
10	because he was not my father's GP at the time and
11	there were no records so it was not practicable for
12	him to do that.
13	MS FRASER BUTLIN: She had also written to the Belfast
14	Hospital?
15	MR GARY MCKELVEY: She had.
16	MS FRASER BUTLIN: What did they say?
17	MR GARY MCKELVEY: No medical records existed.
18	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You then wrote to the Belfast Health
19	and Social Trust?
20	MR GARY MCKELVEY: I did, yes.
21	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Again, what did they say?
22	MR GARY MCKELVEY: They said:
23	"A further search was completed for any electronic
24	records, ie laboratory results, and nothing was found.
25	The requested notes have been destroyed in line with
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it is WITN0525002, please. It is the second and third paragraphs:

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"While I appreciate that it may be frustrating and distressing for Mrs McKelvey as she tries to retrieve her late husband's medical records, the retention and destruction of medical records are governed by Good Management, Good Records, the record schedule for Health and Social Care organisations and the Department. This provides a framework for consistent and effective records management based on advice and publications from the Ministry of Justice and the Public Records Office Northern Ireland. Medical records are usually destroyed 10 years after death.

"It is against this background that officials in the Department have contacted the Belfast Trust and the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service to look into this matter. The Department has established that further information is needed in order to progress the case. Mr McKelvey's family should contact the manager of the Infected Blood Payment Scheme for Northern Ireland, Mr Colin Murray ... He will liaise with the relevant officials in the Department, Health and Social Trusts and NIBTS to see if any other records can be retrieved."

So you were referred back to Mr Murray, who you

the Trust's policy."

They spelt retention wrong, but "retention and destruction of records". Yeah. I also wrote to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and had exactly the same response.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: So GPs couldn't help, hospital records had been destroyed. At that point you then contacted the Business Services Organisation on December 2017 because it had shifted across?

10 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: What were you advised by them?
 MR GARY MCKELVEY: I spoke with Mr Colin Murray at the BSO and, you know, actually, he was very helpful on the phone, which was the first time anyone had been

helpful. But ultimately he was only able to come back
 with the same response: no medical records, there was
 no way forward, and that we should contact -- and my
 mother should contact her local Assembly Member,

called Stephen Farry, which is what she did, yeah -who in turn contacted Richard Pengelly, who was --

21 I have forgotten his title.

22 MS FRASER BUTLIN: He is the Permanent Secretary and HSE23 Chief Executive.

24 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Thank you very much, yes.

25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we look at his letter in response,

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had already spoken to?
MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, he was.
MS FRASER BUTLIN: Has there beer

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Has there been any progress at all since then?

MR GARY MCKELVEY: Out of the blue about three months ago
 Mr Murray contacted my mother and said, "Look, someone
 from the Health Service is going to contact you", but
 it hasn't happened. So no progress.

At the same time I did contact the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service as well and again it was, you know, just running down a blind alley. We just seem to go in ever-decreasing circles.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: During these conversations, during
 trying to get records and speaking to Mr Murray, did
 you provide them with a copy of the death certificate
 and an indication of what the death certificate said?

17 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, absolutely.

18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So a death certificate indicating that
 19 your dad had died of hepatic failure and viral

20 hepatitis --

21 MR GARY MCKELVEY: For sure.

22 **MS FRASER BUTLIN:** -- was not considered to be enough?

23 MR GARY MCKELVEY: It was not considered to be enough, no. 24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I wonder if that's a good place to

25 take a break for the morning before we hear from our

1	other panellists.	1	traffic accident?
2	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Yes, it is. Let's take a break then	2	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes, I discovered a very interesting
3	until 12.05 pm. I hope that gives you long enough.	3	tunnel up in the mountains near Bergen which had no
4	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir (break in audio transmission) the	4	lights in it and it turned right on entry so I went
5	usual witness rule.	5	straight into the wall.
6	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: No, I won't.	6	MS FRASER BUTLIN: In terms of the injuries you sustained,
7	(11.36 am)	7	can you tell us about those?
8	(A short break)	8	MR ANDREW BRAGG: First point of contact was my head and
9	(12.05 pm)	9	face. Then my motorbike landed on my leg and crushed
10	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Yes.	10	my right leg, so the estimate was I had something like
11	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Andrew, if we can start this session	11	17 fractures below the knee. It was two and a half
12	with your evidence. You are a chartered chemical	12	hours to extract me from my hole in the ground, get me
13	engineer?	13	to Bergen, but the medical treatment in Bergen was
14	MR ANDREW BRAGG: I am.	14	fantastic. They had a major trauma unit, so there was
15	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And before you started work after	15	everybody on hand when I arrived. They stabilised me.
16	university in 1986 you went on a long holiday in	16	I had an operation that night.
17	Norway?	17	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You had a tibial nail inserted?
18	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes, I graduated in 1986 as a chemical	18	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Absolutely, yes. Unusual procedure at
19	engineer. I had had a chemical engineering	19	the time, but I had so many fractures to my tibia that
20	scholarship from ICI. That meant I worked through	20	they put a titanium nail from my knee to my ankle, and
21	university as well as studied, so I was looking	21	basically realigned all the fractures around it and
22	forward to having a break before I started work in	22	then fixed it.
23	September. I have a lot of Norwegian friends so	23	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You also had fractures in your foot and
24	I went to Norway.	24	ankle and they were secured with wires?
25	MS FRASER BUTLIN: But while you were there you had a road	25	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes.
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1	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were treated at Haukeland Sykehus	1	so I wasn't really paying much attention to that.
2	in Bergen; is that right?	2	MS FRASER BUTLIN: The two surgeries, the first one was to
3	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Correct, yes.	3	remove the wires in your foot and ankle and then the
4	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were then transferred back to	4	December surgery was to remove the screws from the
5	Liverpool.	5	tibial nail.
6	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes, I was flown home. I had a night at	6	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes.
7	home. The GP came out to see me because the	7	MS FRASER BUTLIN: When you were there do you recall if
8	Norwegians just gave me one day's worth of drugs, took	8	that was considered to be quite major surgery or
9	one look at me and called an ambulance. I went to	9	whether it was relatively routine?
10	Broadgreen Hospital in Liverpool. Bit of a culture	10	MR ANDREW BRAGG: It certainly wasn't routine. I was out
11	shock. First time I had actually been on the	11	for well, they put me out. When I came to I had
12	receiving end in a UK hospital, and compared to Norway	12	a bruise from my shoulder to my groin, because the
13	it was I will call it second world but certainly	13	Norwegians had told me the screws needed to come out
14	Norway was far more impressive as a place to be.	14	after eight weeks, and it was 17 weeks, so they had
15	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And when you were in Norway you were	15	quite a struggle, and they had also opened up all the
16	given blood transfusions in Norway.	16	fractures in my tibia again, so I wasn't in great
17	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes.	17	shape.
	MS EDASED BITTIN: You were then in Broadgreen Hospital	18	MS EDASED BITTIN: Then in October 1087 you were treated

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Then in October 1987 you were treated
 in Blackburn Royal Infirmary and they removed the
 tibial nail at that point?
 MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes, I was getting a lot of pain in my

21 MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes, I was getting a lot of pain in my
22 knee, so walking was very, very painful because it was
23 metal on bone, so it was agreed to take the nail out.

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Do you know whether in that surgery you25 had a blood transfusion?

for a while and then subsequently, in November 1986

MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes, they needed to remove the fixings

a blood transfusion in the theatre. I can't remember

having a blood transfusion when I was on the ward

and December 1986, you had further surgery.

through the tibial nail. I have no idea if I had

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know what I had, so they started a very extensive set of tests to establish what I might have had in India.

1	MR ANDREW BRAGG: I definitely I remember coming to and	1
2	seeing the bags of blood hanging up around me.	2
3	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were then readmitted two weeks	3
4	later because of more complications?	4
5	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes. My knee swelled up really, really	5
6	badly. I'd attended the fracture clinic. The	6
7	solution seemed to be that the doctor got hold of my	7
8	knee and pressed, so that burst all the stitches and	8
9	emptied the certainly effective in draining my knee	9
10	but it meant I was readmitted.	10
11	MS FRASER BUTLIN: That was 1987.	11
12	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes.	12
13	MS FRASER BUTLIN: How did you then come to find out you	13
14	had hepatitis C?	14
15	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Working for ICI from in the	15
16	mid-1990s, I started working on the more international	16
17	side of the business and I was working with ICI India	17
18	to establish a business in India, so late 1998 I was	18
19	having a meeting in New Delhi and I became quite ill.	19
20	It was about a week before I was well enough to fly	20
21	home.	21
22	That sort of passed but I felt ill. I never felt	22
23	well again. My GP basically said, "Well, you've been	23
24	in India, you have got something. It will go". But	24
25	the occupational health department in ICI wanted to	25
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1	the NHS."	1
2	I asked them how much it cost and they said about	2
3	£20,000. I said, "Well, can I pay for it?"	3
4	"No."	4
5	So I was then in a dilemma. I couldn't get	5
6	treatment through the NHS and they wouldn't allow me	6
7	treatment through any other route, so, you know,	7
8	presumably I just had to sit there and die. I had	8
9	some conversations with my MP about it but that didn't	9
10	lead anywhere.	10
11	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Then in 2000 you were able to join	11
12	a trial of pegylated interferon and ribavirin?	12
13	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yeah, Professor Bassendine in Newcastle	13
14	was aware of my persistence in looking for treatment	14
15	and made me aware that there was a trial coming up on	15

peg interferon and ribavirin and asked me if I was

prepared to take part, which I was. I didn't fit the

trial criteria because apparently male and over 40

MS FRASER BUTLIN: You had 48 weeks of treatment and

MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes. Yeah, I didn't -- yeah. I was

so they threatened to withdraw treatment. Fortunately

having -- after three months it still hadn't cleared

wasn't a good -- but I got onto the trial so --

started in 2001.

managed to clear the virus?

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After about two months they said, "We can't actually
        detect anything that you might have caught in India
        but there doesn't seem to be something right with your
        liver. Give it" -- I think it was another month and
        they came back and said, "Here's a letter. Go to see
        your GP. You've got hepatitis C".
    MS FRASER BUTLIN: So once you were diagnosed with
        hepatitis C, effectively through the tests that the
        occupational health team had done, you were then
        referred to the Freeman Hospital.
    MR ANDREW BRAGG: In Newcastle, yes.
    MS FRASER BUTLIN: What were you told then about the
        availability of treatment?
    MR ANDREW BRAGG: Well, they reconfirmed the diagnosis by
        PCR and they also did a liver biopsy. So the feedback
        from that was that I definitely had hepatitis C, that
        I had fibrosis to the liver. I asked them what the
        implications was for me and they said, "Well, based on
        what we have seen, you have probably got five to seven
        years to live".
            So obvious next question is, "What treatment are
        you going to give?"
            And the answer was, "None, it is too expensive for
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        after four months, 16 weeks, I had cleared. So
        I continued to the end.
    MS FRASER BUTLIN: Since that treatment, what's your
        health been like?
    MR ANDREW BRAGG: Well, I have cleared the virus but my
        immune system is guite comprehensively damaged so
        I get infections regularly. Typically a major
        infection every year, two or three small ones. So
        I have had sepsis three times. I've had pneumonia.
        I'm a regular visitor to hospitals with infections.
    MS FRASER BUTLIN: You have also got raised blood pressure
        and heart rate.
    MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yeah. That was interesting because all
        the way through treatment they never once did obs,
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        standard obs. So I think it was after two or three
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        PCRs I was discharged from Newcastle and picked up
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        again by my GP. The first thing he did was check my
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        blood pressure and it was very high. And my resting
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        heart rate was over 100.
20 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were also diagnosed with
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        Type 2 diabetes in 2017.
22 MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes.
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    MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you said you've had sepsis. It was
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        biliary sepsis in -- twice in 2013 and then again in
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        2016, is that right?
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MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes. 1 2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In terms of your immune system, you went to see an immunologist about that. 3 4 MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes, I did. 5 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What were you told? MR ANDREW BRAGG: That basically there's four proteins 6 7 that form the basis of your immune system, and two of 8 them in my case were at very low levels. One of them 9 is called C-reactive -- it's CRP, C-reactive protein, 10 is what doctors use to establish whether you have 11 an infection or not. And the immunologist told me 12 that my base levels were so low that even if they went 13 up a hundred-fold, I still wouldn't pass the test that 14 a standard doctor would recognise that I had 15 an infection. So I have a history of knowing I have 16 an infection but not getting a doctor to believe me 17 that I have an infection. So usually I have to wait 18 until I get seriously ill before they'll intervene. 19 20 with all of these health difficulties? 21 22 I had treatment I've not been able to do a responsible 23 role. So I have not been able to run a business. 24 I have not been able to have a team of people. I have 25 really not been able to manage a line budget, so 57

17 18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What has the impact been on your work 19 20 MR ANDREW BRAGG: What effectively it's done is I -- since 21 22 23 24 25 I should have a go at this. MS FRASER BUTLIN: With your application for the Skipton

1 2 3 Fund, you provided a letter from Norway which you had 4 obtained in 2001. 5 MR ANDREW BRAGG: For the initial application, yeah. MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can we --6 7 MR ANDREW BRAGG: So I was of the understanding that 8 hepatitis C was, like, something you had to register 9 as a serious illness, that -- you know, it's -- you 10 can communicate it therefore. So I asked at Freemans 11 who had they told that I had hepatitis C? And they 12 hadn't told anyone. So, "Have you written to Norway?" 13 No. So I wrote to the Norwegians to say, "I have been 14 diagnosed with hep C", just to make them aware, and 15 they responded with a letter that basically said I'd 16 received blood transfusions from four donors when 17 I was in Norway, that three of those donors were still 18 donors now and were testing negative and that the 19 fourth donor they were looking to -- had no trace. 20 MS FRASER BUTLIN: If you want we will look at the letter. 21 Probably easier. 22 WITN0195005. 23 Before we look at the terms of the letter, this 24 only arose though, Andrew, because you had contacted

the Norwegians to tell them you had hepatitis C?

effectively my career in the company came to an end when I had treatment. Because, you know, if you are having six, eight, ten weeks a year off sick, then you are not a reliable employee. So I am more in a skilled -- you know, so I advise the company on things. But it means, you know, I've just not been able to progress.

8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think you described that you are 9 doing a sort of technical role but you can't do any of 10 the managerial or business work that you were 11 previously doing?

12 MR ANDREW BRAGG: No.

13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In terms of the Skipton Fund, can you 14 tell us how you came to hear about it?

15 MR ANDREW BRAGG: Through The Hepatitis C Trust. One of the things that I did carry on after I was discharged from Newcastle was that there was a charity called Liver News which gives you booklets and informs you what is going on at the Freeman, and one of the articles in there was around a survey that this hepatitis C Trust was doing, to which I signed up for. It was looking for what was the ongoing effects of treatment. And in one of the articles in one of their magazines it mentioned the Skipton Fund, which I had never heard of. So I looked it up more and thought

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MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: We see their response:

"I am sorry to hear that you have got the diagnoses hepatitis C. During your hospital stay in Bergen you received blood from 4 donors. The Haukeland University Hospital Bloodbank started hepatitis C-testing in October 1990. In 1986 the hepatitis C virus was unknown and consequently there was not any test available.

"We have examined through our donor files. Three of the four donors have tested anti-hepatitis C negative. The fourth donor has not given blood since 1987, and she has not tested hepatitis C positive as a patient."

So you sent this letter with your application to the Skipton Fund but your application was refused.

17 MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes.

18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we can turn to that.

EIBS0000148, please, _061.

20 We see a response if we look down towards the 21 middle of the page:

> "The supporting medical information submitted in your application did not provide sufficient evidence that ..."

On the balance of probabilities that you had

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1 contracted hepatitis C through NHS blood or blood 2 products. 3 "I understand from the documentation provided that you received blood transfusions from four donors in 4 5 Norway and three of the four donors were Anti-HCV 6 negative but the fourth cannot be ruled out as 7 a potential source of infection. The medical 8 assessors could find no record of your receipt of NHS 9 blood or blood products in the documentation 10 provided." 11 You sought your records from Blackburn Hospital.

12 MR ANDREW BRAGG: I did. 13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What were you told about that? 14 MR ANDREW BRAGG: I had a letter saying that, in 15 accordance with hospital policy, my records had been 16 destroyed. 17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And in relation to Broadgreen Hospital, 18 what notes did you get from them? 19 MR ANDREW BRAGG: They sent some records. I wouldn't 20 describe them as comprehensive but they had actually 21 something on file. But it was quite difficult to 22 really establish in detail what had happened.

23 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And in those records there wasn't any 24 indication of a blood transfusion in those records? 25

MR ANDREW BRAGG: No.

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: You also obtained a further letter from the Norwegian Hospital Trust.

MR ANDREW BRAGG: Well, I got in touch with the Norwegians to tell them what EIBSS had said.

5 MS FRASER BUTLIN: We have got their response, the 6 Norwegian response.

WITN0195002, please.

Dated April 2018. Is this the response that you got? It says:

"This is a response to your letter of March 20th 2018 concerning further information on the donor about whom we had no definite information about hepatitis C status in 2001.

"She has now been repeatedly [I think it should say 'tested'] for antibodies to hepatitis C in relation to multiple hospital visits since 2005, all tests for anti-HCV have been negative.

"As mentioned in the letter from prof Hervig in 2001 the other three donors of the 4 units of blood you received in 1986 were repeat donors beyond our testing for hepatitis C and testing negative.

"It is highly unlikely that you have contracted hepatitis C from the transfusions in 1986."

So, you provided that to EIBSS.

MR ANDREW BRAGG: Yes.

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: And appealed their decision. If we can look at your appeal email.

EIBS0000148_064, please.

We can see there that you had provided the three responses, the Haukeland Sykehus Bergen response, the Royal Liverpool Hospital's response and the East Lancashire Hospital response, and then you wrote this:

"It is very disappointing that East Lancashire trust has destroyed my records because I had a significant operation to remove the tibial nail at Blackburn Royal Infirmary in 1987. This surgery was followed by readmission to deal with the complications which followed.

"A summary of my case for inclusion in the EIBSS scheme was that;

- "1. The Norwegian authorities have extensive records of my treatment and all blood donors involved and they believe that it is highly unlikely that I could have contracted Hepatitis C during their treatment.
- "2. I had two surgical procedures in Broadgreen Hospital in Liverpool in 1986 for which some limited records are available and are attached.
- "3. I had one major surgical procedure in Blackburn Royal Infirmary in 1987 for which all

records have been destroyed. I was admitted for surgery to remove the tibial nail from my right leg on 12th October 1987 and had the operation the following day. The date is very clear to me because my step father had a heart attack at the hospital after dropping me at the ward. I was allowed out of bed for the fist time to visit him on October 23rd. He died that evening. I was readmitted to BRI a week later following complications with my right knee.

"Contracting hepatitis C has been a major event in my life which has severely impacted on my health, quality of life and work prospects. I am sure that this was contracted during one of the medical procedures I underwent during treatment within the UK. On this basis I am appealing your earlier decision."

That appeal was unsuccessful and we will just, if we may, turn to the rejection of the appeal.

WITN0195006.

There are the standard provisions -- standard letter on the first page, but if we turn to page 2, and it is the third paragraph:

"The Panel noted that your appeal was based on a transfusion you received on returning home following a road traffic accident in 1986 in Norway. Unfortunately, due to the lack of supporting evidence

1	including medical records confirming that you were	1	about it until I saw the record. She did tell me that
2	treated with NHS blood or blood products prior to 1991	2	she had an accident. But she was not eager to sort of
3	in England, the Panel were not satisfied that it was	3	explain anything. She was still a bit sad about it,
4	more probable than not that your Hepatitis C infection	4	so she didn't and I didn't press on it, but I knew she
5	resulted from qualifying NHS treatment. Accordingly	5	had an accident where she had a very terrible time in
6	we regret that we must refuse your appeal."	6	the hospital.
7	Andrew, were there any more records that you could	7	MS FRASER BUTLIN: In your statement you've said that she
8	have obtained?	8	had an operation to have her spleen removed and part
9	MR ANDREW BRAGG: Not that I was aware of. I would have	9	of her stomach removed.
10	pursued it if I thought I could find more evidence.	10	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.
11	It doesn't help that the system is quite diffuse,	11	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And your understanding is that she had
12	there is no clear pathway of how to obtain this	12	multiple blood transfusions at that point in time?
13	evidence, so it's quite difficult and challenging to	13	MS RUBY GILKES: At that time, yes.
14	be outside of the system and then try and find it.	14	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And through them she contracted
15	MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think that's something we will come	15	hepatitis C?
16	back to in our thematic conversation shortly.	16	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.
17	If we could then turn, Ruby, to talk to you	17	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And also suffered renal failure and
18	a little bit about your situation. You are here to	18	required a kidney transplant in 1989?
19	speak about your late sister, Anne, Ruby?	19	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.
20	She had a road traffic accident in 1982; is that	20	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And in 1999 Anne was told she had
21	right?	21	contracted hepatitis C but the family weren't aware of
22	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.	22	that at the time; is that right?
23	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And she sustained some very serious	23	MS RUBY GILKES: No, we weren't aware of it. I just
24	injuries in that accident?	24	happened to saw when I was after she died and I was
25	MS RUBY GILKES: According to the record, I didn't know	25	cleaning the house out, that I came across all the
	65		66
1	details of it.	1	me. And so she gave me the telephone number of the
2	MS FRASER BUTLIN: In 2003 Anne developed rectal cancer as	2	hospital, so I called the hospital the day and the
3	well.	3	doctor the nurse that was attending in ICU
4	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.	4	confirmed that, yes, Anne was unconscious at the time
5	MS FRASER BUTLIN: She was also diabetic.	5	So just during the time I was ringing they never
6	MS RUBY GILKES: She was a diabetic. After the transplant	6	called me to find out what or give me any
7	she got diabetes.	7	information, so I had no information.
8	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And in 2007 her transplanted kidney	8	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Anne had septicaemia?
9	began to fail: is that right?	9	MS RUBY GILKES: She contracted senticaemia and she also

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10 MS RUBY GILKES: It would be 2006. Yes. MS FRASER BUTLIN: Then in February 2007 I think you 11 12 received a telephone call from her neighbour? MS RUBY GILKES: Her neighbour, yeah. 13 14 MS FRASER BUTLIN: At that point you were in Barbados? 15 MS RUBY GILKES: I was in Barbados. I did missionary work 16 there for the church. 17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What was the situation with Anne, what 18 had happened with her? 19 MS RUBY GILKES: Well, the neighbours who called me and 20 told me that the taxi that takes her to the unit for 21 the -- renal unit -- and that the taxi man could not 22 get into the house. So he called a neighbour and the 23 neighbour of course had the keys and she went in and 24 her words were, to me, they found her on the floor 25 unconscious in a pool of blood. That was her words to 67

enal failure and as told she had eren't aware of of it. I just e died and I was oss all the e number of the y and the n ICU cious at the time. ey never any mia? MS RUBY GILKES: She contracted septicaemia and she also had a stroke. MS FRASER BUTLIN: And she also had bleeding in the colon as well. 13 MS RUBY GILKES: She was ...? MS FRASER BUTLIN: Her colon, there was bleeding in her colon, in her lower intestine. 16 MS RUBY GILKES: Yes, she had serious bleeding in the colon, that's it. MS FRASER BUTLIN: You got back to the UK in March, not very long after that, and you found Anne was really very unwell at that point? MS RUBY GILKES: Well, she was very unwell. I spent three days with her. On Monday I got back from Barbados, the earliest flight I could get back, and

I spent Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Norwich and

me about that they were going to do an operation on her and her words were they were going to bring part of her belly out on the top and she said to me, "I never -- I could never live with that. I could never live with that. No, no, I could never". So anyhow, to start a story, I told her I would come back on the next week, the Monday, and see the doctor because up until then I had no communication with the hospital, nothing. So I told her I would come back on the Monday and see her.

declined.

And, unfortunately, on the Monday I was -- we went -- I came back, on the coach again, and it was my daughter and my sister, and I got a telephone message to say that my -- Anne was taken to the operating theatre the night and that she -- unfortunately, they couldn't stop the bleeding and they let her go. She died

So we still carry on, the three of us, to the hospital. We got to the administrative office and by the time we go into operation -- the office, saw the nurse sitting there and she told me, she never even said -- no sorry, nothing. She just said -- give us the belongings to Anne and she gave the certificate and whatever. I never even looked at it because the shock of it. But what she said is -- then she told me

me and she was so determined, she said, "I will never have that. I will never have that. No, I can't live with that", and I said I would go back on the Monday to see the doctor myself, and I didn't let her know that is what I was coming back to do, but unfortunately we never got there. She died before.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Anne had applied to the Skipton Fund before she died.

MS RUBY GILKES: Yes, she did. The consultant that looked after her in hospital -- I saw the letters, that's where I got the material from. I didn't -- no-one told me anything. I just got from the notes that I saw in the house and I saw he had written to Skipton Fund about Anne's condition, that she had contacted hepatitis C. But when she sent the form, Skipton Fund declined the form and they didn't give no -- well, I didn't see any reason for -- but they just -- I saw

So I saw all of this information that I got now, the Skipton Fund, within these notes that I saw. I call up Skipton Fund and the guy said -- he asked me first, you know who I was. I give him who I was and I told him Anne had died and he said to me then, "Oh, that's what she told" -- when I told him that I saw hepatitis C in the notes. He said, "That's what she

that a message from the hospital chaplain to say that under no circumstances to see the body, to view the body.

So we left the hospital and the time came and we were then -- I went to register the death. I never even looked to see and didn't even realise I gave the wrong -- the lady said, "Clark with an e", and to be quite honest I was -- I just thought she wrote, I think she wrote Clark without the e.

Anyhow, the time came for her to be buried and I went then to the funeral director and I took her best clothes because she was a model. She used to model these clothes and catwalk. She was very independent and she was very winning.

So I took a very nice dress and say ... you know. Then they told me, no, that, you know, it was no use to bring that because under no circumstances the hospital said to view the body.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Anne had undergone an operation to fit
 a colostomy bag. So it was to have --

21 MS RUBY GILKES: Yes, a colostomy bag on the outside, youknow.

23 MS FRASER BUTLIN: A stoma.

MS RUBY GILKES: I didn't discuss it with her but I was
 going back on the Monday to see the -- after she told
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told you". I said, "No, she never told me anything about it but I got the record that, you know, that you sent, and I got the information from you that that's how I come to contact you".

So he sent me a form and I had to go to the doctor, her GP, and the GP had to wait some time because they said they don't keep the record here, so they would send away for the records.

9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you re-applied to the Skipton10 Fund --

11 MS RUBY GILKES: Mm.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: -- in 2013?

13 MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And provided letters from Anne's
 hepatologist and other medical letters you had managed
 to gather.

17 MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: In 2014 the Skipton Fund accepted the application and paid a stage one payment.

20 MS RUBY GILKES: No, first of all, they declined it and
 I had to -- they said if I did not agree with what
 they had said, I was to appeal, so I appealed and it

23 was accepted.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: You then made an application for
 a stage 2 payment but by then the clinician who had

1	treated your sister had retired; is that right?	1	"II End stage Renal failure, Diabetes, Hepatitis
2	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.	2	C, Carcinoma Rectum, Sarcoid Liver."
3	MS FRASER BUTLIN: So the form was completed by	3	Because the death certificate didn't say that
4	a clinician on the basis of the records they had but	4	liver failure had caused her death then the
5	had never treated Anne?	5	application for a stage 2 payment was refused; is that
6	MS RUBY GILKES: No, that's what it said. He never	6	right?
7	treated Anne, he didn't know Anne but that's what the	7	MS RUBY GILKES: That is correct.
8	record says so he	8	MS FRASER BUTLIN: But you have sought to challenge the
9	MS FRASER BUTLIN: He sent the form as Skipton required	9	death certificate?
10	directly to Skipton?	10	MS RUBY GILKES: Sorry?
11	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.	11	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You weren't happy with what was put on
12	MS FRASER BUTLIN: But that meant you didn't see what he	12	the death certificate?
13	had written?	13	MS RUBY GILKES: No, at that point I looked at it because
14	MS RUBY GILKES: I didn't see what he write, no.	14	I didn't see before that I didn't observe the death
15	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you had concerns about what he	15	certificate. But at that point, after he said that,
16	might have written?	16	you know, what was written on the death certificate
17	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.	17	wasn't the criteria of what he wanted, I looked at it
18	MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we can look at if you are	18	and then I saw, no, that is what they have there
19	comfortable with this, look at Anne's death	19	for the cause of death is not really what happened.
20	certificate.	20	And also I said you know, I write to him and I told
21	WITN0805008, please.	21	him that. It wasn't like that. It wasn't she had
22	We have towards the just below halfway, the	22	an operation that caused her death. So he didn't
23	cause of death is marked as:	23	agree, doesn't agree with it. He just doesn't.
24	"I(a) Lower Gastrointestinal bleed.	24	MS FRASER BUTLIN: You have sought to you have made
25	"(b) Angiodysplasia of colon.	25	a complaint to the Parliamentary Ombudsman?
	73		74
1	MS RUBY GILKES: Yes.	1	out, you know, what happened during the operation. So
2	MS FRASER BUTLIN: But that wasn't upheld?	2	I told them told Mr the Skipton Fund that I did
3	MS RUBY GILKES: What they say, they did an investigation,	3	not agree with what they were saying, as he was trying
4	they say. In paragraphs they said in one paragraph	4	to convince me that she died of problems with her
5	they said that she did acknowledged that she had	5	intestines. I told him no, it is not so.
6	been to the operating theatre on 12 March. And then	6	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thank you. We can take that down.
7	further down into another category they said that	7	Peter. You work as an architect.
8	she that Mrs Anne Jordan-Clarke sadly died in	8	MR PETER FRITH: I'm a chartered architect, yes.
9	hospital on 6 March. So that caused two deaths: she	9	MS FRASER BUTLIN: During your training in August 1974 you
10	had one on the 12th and one on the 6th. So they	10	were on a work placement when you had a
11	didn't agree with me that, you know they were not	11	MR PETER FRITH: Yes, it's actually I put that down
12	in agreement with me at all. They didn't do anything	12	it is actually April.
13	about it.	13	MS FRASER BUTLIN: April 1974, apologies.
14	MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think you have tried to challenge the	14	You were on a work placement when you had
15	death certificate because you feel that hepatitis C	15	a nosebleed.
16	played a more significant part in your sister's death	16	MR PETER FRITH: That is correct.
17	than we see here, particularly in relation to the	17	MS FRASER BUTLIN: That wouldn't stop?

MS RUBY GILKES: Yes, the bleeding, and they could not 19 stop the bleeding in the operating theatre. Now, I'm

20 MR PETER FRITH: I was taken to the North Lonsdale

MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you were taken to hospital.

MR PETER FRITH: It wouldn't stop, yeah.

21 Hospital at A&E.

22 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What can you tell us about what 23 happened at --

24 MR PETER FRITH: I was admitted to A&E. They performed 25 a packing of my nose and I was left there for a couple

because they did not do a coroner's report to find 75

can't stop the bleeding, when the liver is involved.

30-something years and I knew that -- knew when you

So I challenged that. I told them no, something wrong

a nurse and I worked in operating theatres for

gastrointestinal bleed, is that right?

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1 of hours and it seemed to be under control and I was 2 discharged home later that day. I went home. The 3 bleeding continued, the blood running down the back of 4 my throat. My mother called an ambulance and I was 5 readmitted and I was admitted onto the ENT ward at 6 North Lonsdale Hospital. I was there under the ENT 7 consultant, Mr Potter. Kept in bed, still, not to 8 move until the blood had stopped. He then took me --9 I can't recall the exact sequence of events on that 10 particular instance but I think I was taken down for 11 an investigation and they determined I had a fibroma 12 of some sort and felt it would, I think, at that time, 13 would subside. MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were diagnosed with nasopharyngeal 14 15 angiofibroma, which is a benign tumour. 16 MR PETER FRITH: Yes, that was -- so I went back to 17

college in September and the nose bleeds restarted. 18 I was then referred back to the ward and I was 19 re-examined and the nasopharyngeal angiofibroma was 20 determined, a benign tumour.

21 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you had surgery to remove the 22 tumour.

23 MR PETER FRITH: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And at that time you think you received 24 25 eight units of blood.

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1 tumour.

2 MR PETER FRITH: Yes, I was advised in Birmingham this was 3 a very rare tumour, one in five million.

4 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You asked, in fact, to be referred back 5 to North Lonsdale.

6 MR PETER FRITH: I did, so I could be at home.

7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you underwent further surgery.

8 MR PETER FRITH: I went -- I was admitted almost 9 immediately, again given more blood, prior to the 10 operation, and then went under again -- and went for second lot of surgery. 11

12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were then monitored for the next 13 three to four years.

14 MR PETER FRITH: I was, yes.

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15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And it didn't recur.

MR PETER FRITH: It didn't recur, it regressed again. 16

17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: During that time of being treated in 18 North Lonsdale and Birmingham what interactions there

19 were with the Christie Hospital?

20 MR PETER FRITH: Well, after every surgical operation by

Mr Potter, he was concerned that because he hadn't

22 been able to retract the whole of the tumour, that it

23 could recur, and to try to prevent it recurring he

24 referred me to the Christie Hospital in Manchester for

25 radiotherapy. I was -- went down on two -- after --

MR PETER FRITH: Yes. I received blood before and after. 1

2 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Had you seen that you were receiving

3 blood or is that a recollection of 4

-- (overspeaking) --

5 MR PETER FRITH: Yes, when I was admitted to the hospital 6 because I had been losing so much blood I can recall 7 them putting the drip in my arm. Because I am very 8 adverse to needles.

9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In the autumn of 1975 the nose bleeds 10 recurred again.

11 MR PETER FRITH: They did.

12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you were referred on that occasion 13 to Birmingham.

14 MR PETER FRITH: Because I was in college in Birmingham, the GP I had in Birmingham referred me to the 16 Steelhouse Lane Hospital in Birmingham where I saw

a ENT consultant there. It so happens my previous ENT 18 consultant had issued me with a letter -- which

19 I don't have because it went to the hospital -- which

20 had explained in case of recurrence -- because

21 apparently these tumours are prone to recurrence --

22 that I'd been operated on for this procedure. When

I gave this to the consultants they were sort of

24 overjoyed. They had never seen this before.

25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Even in Birmingham this was a very rare

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1 following both operations and spent a week at the 2 hospital there undergoing masses of amount of x-rays,

3 research, and at the end of which they concluded that

4 I would suffer more damage to my face and scarring and

5 loss of teeth than was reasonable to be expected and 6 their recommendation was to go back and have further

7 surgery.

8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you tell us what your health was 9 like before the operations?

10 MR PETER FRITH: I was fit. I was very active. I would 11 go climbing mountains, play squash, and potholing.

12 I was very active, yeah.

13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And afterwards?

14 MR PETER FRITH: After the operations? The operations 15 were successful and I returned to a normal -- returned 16 to normal health really.

17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: How did you come to find out you had 18 hepatitis C?

MR PETER FRITH: In about 2009 I had my own small 19 20 architectural practice and myself and my business 21 partner at the time, we had an insurance policy, 22 a cross partnership insurance policy, to insure our

23 joint lives, and we were seeking to get better terms,

24 and as part of that we were both required to have

25 a medical examination. I went to my local GP to have

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a medical and he carried out the medical, at the end of which he said, "Everything is fine, except your liver seems very enlarged". He says, "It is nothing to worry about, what we will do is we will get you referred to a consultant and see what we can find out".

Consequent to that I was referred to Gillian Townsend, a consultant at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. I visited her and sat there for about an hour. She took a very detailed medical history, asked me lots of detailed questions about my previous health and about the operations I had had. I then went under MRI scans, ultrasound scans and lots of blood test.

Following that, one morning a letter arrived at home and it was a letter from the hospital saying, "You have tested positive for HCV, we would like to have you back for another test just to make sure this is not a false positive". At that time, heaven knows I didn't know what HCV stood for, so what's the first thing you do? You go and Google HCV. And then all this stuff about hepatitis C comes up on the screen.

Wife was at work. I just rang her up and said, "I have just had this, I don't know what to think". Anyway, I went for the second blood test and then

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a week or so later I had a phone call at the office from my GP.

3 MS FRASER BUTLIN: He asked you to go straight down.

MR PETER FRITH: Yes, can I go straight to his, please,

5 "Tell the receptionist I phoned you". I went to see 6 him and he said, "You've tested positive for

hepatitis C", and he admitted that he did not know a lot about it himself and that he had been contacted

9 by this consultant because she was on holiday and was

10 anxious that I should know straightaway.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Take your time. 11

12 MR PETER FRITH: Anyway, I eventually got back to see Gillian Townsend and she explained about hepatitis C and most likely cause, from the history she had taken, was from the blood transfusions I had had back in 1974 and 1975.

> I was immediately transferred under the care of a specialist hepatitis C nurse, which they had at Princess Royal, a lady by the name of Sandra Taylor, who was absolutely brilliant. And I was very fortunate to have had her. I didn't realise that a lot of authorities didn't have that facility. And she was totally dedicated to dealing with patients with hepatitis C, whether it be needlestick injuries, drug addicts, whatever. And she was very good.

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1 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You underwent treatment with interferon 2 and ribavirin

3 MR PETER FRITH: I did.

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: And cleared the hepatitis C. 4

5 MR PETER FRITH: I've never been told officially that

6 I have cleared. Those are words have never been used. 7

I discussed this with my wife and all we can recall 8

being told is that the viral load has managed to go

down to such a microscopic level that it is now undetectable.

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11 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You have said, though, that you don't 12 feel as physically fit.

13 MR PETER FRITH: Now, beyond the treatment. My wife will

14 tell you I'm not the same person. I can't do sport. 15 I'm not -- I can't maintain a level of fitness.

I used to play a lot of tennis prior to it. I used to

17 play for the club. I used to be a very avid

18 windsurfer. I've tried, it's just not possible.

19 I still suffer from the brain fogs and lack of

20 concentration that occurred during the treatment, and

21 there are aspects like my taste has been destroyed,

22 I can't eat food and enjoy food the same way I used

23 to. I can't drink tea at all.

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think you said in your statement that 25 mentally it affected you very severely.

MR PETER FRITH: Yes, it does. I am very -- get 1 2 depressed, feeling of loneliness.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thinking about the Skipton Fund, how

4 did you find out about the Skipton Fund? 5 MR PETER FRITH: Well, it was Sandra really, the

6 hepatitis C nurse, the first time I went to see her

7 and she was explaining about the options we had. It's

8 worth saying one of the first things she said to me

9 was, "Look, you are 54. You haven't had any trouble

10 now but you're getting to an age where things might

11 start going wrong and you could be dead this time next

12 year", which is guite a mental blow. But she was very

13 good. She told us about the Skipton Fund. She had

14 the form. She filled the form in, in the first

15 instance, and she returned the form on my behalf.

16 MS FRASER BUTLIN: But that first application was

17 18 MR PETER FRITH: It was rejected on the basis that there

19 was no evidence that I had had an operation or

20 received blood products. 21

MS FRASER BUTLIN: You sought your medical records from 22 the North Lonsdale Hospital, and what was their

23 response?

24 MR PETER FRITH: The first thing I did was I rang Mr Fish 25 to find out why.

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: And what were you told? MR PETER FRITH: I was told they had no evidence. I said, "Well, these consultants, they know what they are talking about". So, yes, they needed physical evidence I had had an operation and had had blood products. So, okay, I then went away and I approached the North Lonsdale Hospital, which no longer existed, and

So, okay, I then went away and I approached the North Lonsdale Hospital, which no longer existed, ar the subsequent hospital, the Furness District Hospital, I rang them and spoke to their records department and the first thing they asked me was, "You're not making a claim against us, are you?"

I subsequently got a letter from them saying there were no records. They had been destroyed.

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: The Christie Hospital did provide someinformation that cross referred?

17 MR PETER FRITH: They did, yes, and there was limited18 records from my GP as well.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: At that point you sought a private
 consultation with an ENT --

MR PETER FRITH: No, I submitted -- in the first place,
I submitted those initial records from the Christie
and my GP which clearly showed that I had had
an operation for a nasopharyngeal angiofibroma
removal. Then that was subsequently rejected on the

basis they accepted -- that I had not demonstrated I had any blood products.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: So you had a simple rejection because
 nothing had been provided. You then provided what you
 had and that was still rejected?

6 MR PETER FRITH: That was still rejected.

7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: At that point you decided to appeal?
8 MR PETER FRITH: At that point I then phoned Mr Fish again
9 to find out what I had to do and I managed to get him
10 to admit what I had to do was I had to prove that it
11 was probable that I had had blood products during
12 these operations, so that's what I set out to do.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you tell us, first of all, I think
 one of the things you did was sought a private ENT
 appointment.

MR PETER FRITH: Unfortunately, the consultant -- I had approached the consultant who did the operation but he had died. So I then approached -- I got the impression that the medical people looking at my records didn't understand what had happened, so I approached a -- I paid for a private consultation with an ENT consultant to get an opinion on what he

thought would have happened during that operation.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Because from your perspective the

S FRASER BUTLIN: Because from your perspective the nasopharyngeal angiofibroma was rare and it appeared 86

1 that the Skipton Fund hadn't grasped --

2 MR PETER FRITH: That's correct.

3 MS FRASER BUTLIN: -- how vascular that area was?

4 MR PETER FRITH: Yes.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we look at the report produced by
 the private surgeon.

SKIP0000088, and it is page 52 that I want to start with, please.

If we look at the last paragraph of this page we see, we pick it up five lines down:

"The main treatment for nasopharyngeal Angiofibroma involves excision of the lesion and sometimes consideration for radiotherapy. Because of the degree of vascularity of the lesion, present treatment in 2009 would normally include embolisation using interventional radiology to achieve a significant reduction in the blood supply to the tumour, prior to considering surgery for removal. Despite this, the treatment for this lesion would be highly likely to cause significant bleeding during the surgical procedure. It is noted however, that this lesion was excised in 1974 and subsequently required further excision at a second operation twelve months later in December 1975. I would therefore expect that

no radiological procedure would have been undertaken

to specifically reduce the vascularity of this lesion in 1974 or 1975, and therefore one would expect considerable bleeding at the time of surgery both in 1974 and in 1975. It would therefore seem very highly probable indeed that [you] would have required at least one or more blood transfusions at or around the time of both of these operations."

Then if we carry on to page 56, which is the second part of the letter:

"[You are yourself] aware of blood transfusions that occurred at that time. Equally [you are] also aware that considerable operative measures were taken to reduce bleeding in this period and this included packing of the nasal fossa anteriorly and also packing the nasal fossa and nasopharynx posteriorly. [You are] aware that after the main operation in 1974 and 1975, that he subsequently required a general anaesthetic for removal of the packing some two to three days following the main operation. These packs were specifically inserted to reduce the postoperative bleeding, which would have been very highly likely."

So you'd paid privately for this report?

23 MR PETER FRITH: I did.

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And provided that in your appeal. You25 also obtained statements from your family members?

1	MR PETER FRITH: I did.	1	We have a note here of the information as
2	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Dealing with their recollections of you	2	previously submitted. Just go down and we have the
3	receiving blood.	3	bullet points:
4	MR PETER FRITH: Yes.	4	"- The Skipton Fund Application Form duly
5	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And when you	5	completed by me and the Medical Team at the Princess
6	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: I just noticed in the last paragraph	6	Royal Hospital, Telford, overseeing my hepatitis C
7	it says:	7	treatment.
8	" treatment of such a tumour in 1974 would	8	"- A letter from my Consultant and Hepatitis C
9	almost certainly have required blood transfusion at	9	Screening Nurse confirming their investigations on my
10	some stage"	10	behalf, and that in their opinion there are no other
11	So that, again, is you didn't draw attention to	11	risk factors evident which would have led to me being
12	that.	12	infected by the Hepatitis C virus.
13	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Apologies, sir, you are absolutely	13	"- A copy of a letter from University Hospitals of
14	right. There is that reference.	14	Morecambe Bay, which confirms that the records of my
15	When you appealed you provided all of that, and	15	operations carried out at North Lonsdale Hospital have
16	lots of articles about the condition, running to about	16	been destroyed.
17	72 pages?	17	"- A copy of a letter from my current GP, which
18	MR PETER FRITH: I did. I would have provided more if	18	confirms that from the records available to him and to
19	I could have had access to the medical websites which	19	the best of his knowledge I have not had any other
20	I couldn't get access to. I was determined, if I was	20	surgical procedures since the above dates."
21	going to go back, I was going to prove that I had	21	Then a note of the correspondence. That is what
22	blood products.	22	you previously submitted.
23	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Just to give a flavour of what you	23	MR PETER FRITH: Yes.
24	provided to the appeal panel, if we could turn to	24	MS FRASER BUTLIN: If we turn the page we have the
25	page 24 of this document, please, Lawrence.	25	additional information supplied in support of the
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1 2	appeal:	1 2	the web based provision that all doctors can access.
2	appeal: "- A copy of my medical records from the Christie	2	the web based provision that all doctors can access. Having compiled the 72-odd pages you provided that
2	appeal: "- A copy of my medical records from the Christie Hospital Manchester, together with some of the	2	the web based provision that all doctors can access. Having compiled the 72-odd pages you provided that to Skipton and you were successful in your appeal?
2 3 4	appeal: "- A copy of my medical records from the Christie Hospital Manchester, together with some of the correspondence	2 3 4	the web based provision that all doctors can access. Having compiled the 72-odd pages you provided that to Skipton and you were successful in your appeal? MR PETER FRITH: I was.
2 3 4 5	appeal: "- A copy of my medical records from the Christie Hospital Manchester, together with some of the correspondence "- A medical opinion provided by Mr Derek Skinner,	2 3 4 5	the web based provision that all doctors can access. Having compiled the 72-odd pages you provided that to Skipton and you were successful in your appeal? MR PETER FRITH: I was. MS FRASER BUTLIN: We will come after the break to discuss
2 3 4 5 6	appeal: "- A copy of my medical records from the Christie Hospital Manchester, together with some of the correspondence "- A medical opinion provided by Mr Derek Skinner, Consultant ENT Surgeon, as to the high probability	2 3 4 5 6	the web based provision that all doctors can access. Having compiled the 72-odd pages you provided that to Skipton and you were successful in your appeal? MR PETER FRITH: I was. MS FRASER BUTLIN: We will come after the break to discuss the sort of impact that that process has had on you
2 3 4 5 6 7	appeal: "- A copy of my medical records from the Christie Hospital Manchester, together with some of the correspondence "- A medical opinion provided by Mr Derek Skinner, Consultant ENT Surgeon, as to the high probability for the need of blood when surgically removing a nasal	2 3 4 5 6 7	the web based provision that all doctors can access. Having compiled the 72-odd pages you provided that to Skipton and you were successful in your appeal? MR PETER FRITH: I was. MS FRASER BUTLIN: We will come after the break to discuss the sort of impact that that process has had on you and various other thematic discussions we will have
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	appeal: "- A copy of my medical records from the Christie Hospital Manchester, together with some of the correspondence "- A medical opinion provided by Mr Derek Skinner, Consultant ENT Surgeon, as to the high probability for the need of blood when surgically removing a nasal pharyngeal angiofibroma.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	the web based provision that all doctors can access. Having compiled the 72-odd pages you provided that to Skipton and you were successful in your appeal? MR PETER FRITH: I was. MS FRASER BUTLIN: We will come after the break to discuss the sort of impact that that process has had on you and various other thematic discussions we will have after lunch but I note the time, sir, and I wonder if
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1 cleared -- got PCR saying cleared, discharged. There 2 was no support. There was no communication. There 3 was no ongoing testing. So there was almost like you 4 don't -- so, really, given the severity of hep C, 5 given the severity of the treatment, that it would 6 have been far more useful if there had been some 7 continuity of care post-treatment and part of that 8 should have been the Skipton Fund. 9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Robert, I think you were agreeing with 10 11 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Well, yes, because I was going to 12 King's College Hospital for years, and then suddenly 13 they said, "Oh, you are cured, good-bye", and it was 14 like, hang on, this can't happen. This is part of my 15 life. I have been going here for donkey's years and 16 suddenly they have just said, "That's it, you're 17 finished", and it is just very -- it's like I said, 18 there is no follow-up. I do get my doctor to check me 19 but I have to get him to check me. He doesn't -- no 20 doctors check you. I have to say to him -- I went for 21 a blood test the other week and I had to say to them, 22 "Are you doing hepatitis C", and she says, "I haven't 23 got it on here". I says, "Can you get it on there", 24 and she's got it -- I haven't got the results yet but

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MR GARY MCKELVEY: Okay, retrospectively, yeah, for

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I think I'm all right.

2 someone to have said, "Look, here are some options. 3 This is what's happened. You know, we believe, as we 4 were told, the possible cause was the blood that was 5 given in 1981. Here's a route to at least getting 6 some help of some description". 7 MR PETER FRITH: I don't think -- I was very fortunate in 8 that my nurse immediately flagged the Skipton Fund, 9 but my GP didn't know anything about it, so whether it 10 is well known, it was flagged across the National 11 Trust(sic) as a whole or it's only a certain few 12 people who were dealing with hepatitis C or -- might 13 have known about it, and perhaps it needs to be more 14 commonly aware. Because my GP didn't really 15 understand what hepatitis C was and that's 2009. 16 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And they couldn't assist either on the 17 Skipton Fund if they didn't understand what 18 hepatitis C was? Would that be fair? 19 MR PETER FRITH: That would be fair, yeah. I even went 20 back to him after my diagnosis and told him about it 21 and he said, "Oh, perhaps I should get tested because 22 I had a blood transfusion in ..."

MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: How come somewhere like King's

College that was doing the trials, it was the only

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And part of that follow-up should, you 1 2 think, have included discussion about the Skipton Fund 3 and support to apply? 4 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes. 5 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Gary, do you have any thoughts on that? 6 MR GARY MCKELVEY: I think in my particular case, if we go 7 back to 1991, I'm guessing it didn't exist but it was 8 a case of father dies on the Saturday, come to 9 hospital on the Sunday, it was my signature on the 10 death certificate, yeah, and go home. 11 We were given no advice, support of any 12 description. It was just -- it's you -- yeah, "Move 13 on, get on with your life", yeah. But maybe it was 14 very, very early days and there wasn't the 15 understanding and recognition of -- well, I don't 16 believe hepatitis C was even -- it was non-A, non-B at 17 the time, is my understanding. 18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: But given that you had been issued with 19 a death certificate that indicated hepatic failure and 20 viral hepatitis, what follow-up would you have 21 expected in relation to the Skipton Fund for 22 a bereaved family? 23 MR GARY MCKELVEY: At that time? 24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What would you have wanted, either at 25 the time or once the fund was set up? 94 1 2 3 in touch with this" -- it was only because my sons 4 knew someone who'd done it. It is just -- I think the 5 Skipton Fund is to not pay money out rather than to 6 7 save them money, not to pay out. 8

say? I mean, they must have known. How did they not know about the Skipton Fund and say to you, "Well, get pay money out. I think the Skipton Fund was set up to MS FRASER BUTLIN: Andrew? MR ANDREW BRAGG: I'm not sure, if hepatitis C had been registered as a communicable disease, then they would have had central record keeping and then that would have actually enabled them to track and follow those members of the population who they were aware of had contracted it. That then would have allowed them to follow up at a later stage when the Skipton -- who

15 16 they needed to approach and be proactive about it. It 17 is not proactive. You had to find out about it and 18 approach them. Which is the wrong way to do it, 19 I think. 20 MS FRASER BUTLIN: When you received the rejection letters

21 from the Skipton Fund in various ways, can you first 22 of all tell us the impact of those rejections on your 23 own mental well being?

24 MR PETER FRITH: It is devastating really, you are not 25 lying to them. You are telling the truth and you have

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1 the back up of the consultant and the hep C nurse and MS FRASER BUTLIN: Because you'd provided that very 1 2 they say, "No, it's not true, it didn't happen", and 2 lengthy statement and had it all sworn. 3 3 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. on top of the diagnosis it is just soul destroying, it MS FRASER BUTLIN: So when the rejection letter came in, 4 really is. And on the family as well. I was going 4 5 forward to treatment, and I was being told that, 5 how did that make you feel? "There is a possibility you could not be working next MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: I think the word that you used, was 6 6 7 year, but there is this possible payment that would 7 it -- you know, devastated. You put so much -- it's 8 help you". Now, that's -- what do you do? 8 all true. You put your whole self into the statement 9 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: I think it is when you get rejected 9 and then for it to be rejected, not believed, just 10 10 it is like, "You are dirty, because you must have got really, really hard. 11 it some other way". That's what I think is the main 11 **MR PETER FRITH:** There is a bit of hope, isn't there? 12 thing. It's nothing to do with the money. It is to 12 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. 13 do with the fact you've been rejected to say that you 13 MR PETER FRITH: You hope and then that's taken away from 14 got it through that. I think that's what it is. 14 you, that you are going to get some help, and it's 15 15 taken -- the carpet is taken out from under your feet No -- well, it is as good as saying, "Well, you got it 16 some other way", like the blood transfusion people 16 about that and you've got to go back to square one. 17 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes. 17 said, you know, which was rubbish. 18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Rachael, do you have any reflections on 18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Andrew, do you have anything you want 19 19 to add? MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: I think with the Skipton Fund we 20 MR ANDREW BRAGG: It didn't really impact my mental 20 21 were looking to the Skipton Fund as something as 21 health. I was outraged because it was so difficult 22 a support and actually it turned out that it wasn't 22 to -- you know, when the system destroys my medical 23 a support at all. We had to fight so hard and felt 23 records, how do you expect me to prove -- and what 24 more like victims instead of people who had, yeah, 24 it -- is it not surely that it was for the Skipton

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been infected by the hepatitis C.

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1 me to prove that the NHS -- they had it the wrong way 2 round. So the thing that upset me was that implied in 3 this was that the NHS had not given it to me and 4 therefore that I had contracted it by some other 5 route. Did they think it was an intravenous drug 6 user? That really annoyed me. 7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Robert, I think that's what you were 8 saying as well? 9 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: That's what I said, yeah, yeah. If 10 they're saying you haven't got it there, and they 11 reject you, they're saying that you've got it through 12 sex or drugs or sharing needles, which -- and everyone 13 else would think that of you because you've been 14 rejected. 15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In terms of those records not being 16 available, and lack of documents, what are your 17 thoughts, collectively, individually, about how the 18 system should operate if there are no records? 19 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Well, clearly the system doesn't 20 operate. That's a fact. I was really impressed with 21 Andy providing records from Norway going back to 1986, 22 yeah, and if he can do that, you know, with Norwegian 23 health authorities, it makes ours look pretty poor

relative to that. We should be doing much better.

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everyone is following process and it is not the individuals that are -- at whatever sort of organisation you are speaking with, but they just repeat. And I can see it also in the documentation that you showed for everyone pretty much. It was a standard text. Yeah? It is like, "Okay, we will just churn it out again". And we will maybe -- but nothing was -- they didn't make you feel that, you know, there was anything personal involved or there was any care. It was just standard, put it out there and -- okay, in Peter's case, he, you know, demonstrated it is possible with a lot of effort, but I don't think everyone has the time or maybe the desire that he had, yeah, to make that happen. And, you know, at the end, as Robert said to me earlier, he has other issues, if it is okay to mention, yeah, with dyslexia, so it makes things very, very difficult. We are not all the same. And they should be making it easier not more difficult, and it appears that the barriers are constantly put in front of you. It shouldn't be that way. 22 MR PETER FRITH: Very impressed with the -- by what the Norwegians were able to provide. Not only that they had the blood, they could identify the people it came

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Fund to disprove that the NHS gave it to me, not for

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1 scrawl on some of the stuff I managed to retrieve 2 is -- then why we ever choose to destroy -- I know 3 they are paper and they take a lot of space, but it is 4 so critical for people to be able to track their 5 health records for this very purpose. 6 **MR ANDREW BRAGG:** What is the purpose of medical records? 7 You know, it appears to me that here is a system 8 which, at best, is ill defined. It doesn't appear to 9 be auditable, because when you look at the 10 documentation, it is so badly filled in and so 11 perfunctory filled in, you get the feeling that people 12 are just going through the motions of ticking boxes 13 and throwing a piece of paper in the file, and there's 14 never any follow-up. You know, has the NHS ever 15 audited its medicals? I know there are better 16 procedures now in terms of what they are supposed to 17 do, but it is a bit late now, isn't it? 18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Andrew, you come at this from 19 a particular regulatory perspective, as a chemical 20 engineer. Do you want to add any reflections from 21 your own professional life in terms of audit and 22 records? 23 MR ANDREW BRAGG: I work in an industry which is high 24 hazard. So, you know, as part of our routine 25 operations, we put our people at risk and we put our

and I haven't worked on an aeroplane for years but everything I made, every rivet I used, every piece of metal I used, is registered, written down, and they could find out -- if a plane came out of the sky tomorrow and I'd made a part for it, they would know I made that part for it, and I haven't made parts for years. Well, if they can do that on a rivet -- I mean, I think I'm a bit more important than a rivet! Do you know what I mean? It is every nut and bolt on a plane is registered, right down, and forever. It is never -- you know, a window come out of a plane a few years back and they knew where the screws come from. They could trace every -- and they pulled every aeroplane that had screws from that batch in to be re-checked. Well, if they can do that, why can't they do it with -- for our health? You know ...

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MR GARY MCKELVEY: More of a question from my side, in most of the responses here we talk about records destroyed after eight years, after ten years; is that still the policy?

MS FRASER BUTLIN: The Inquiry heard a fairly lengthy presentation a couple of weeks ago about medical records retention. The answer is, it depends when and where. But I can provide that to you after today.

Just thinking a little bit more about the

neighbours at risk and -- we transport chemicals round the world and we have to make sure we do it safely. And we have systems and procedures to make sure we do just that. But if we ever get it wrong, then we will be audited by regulatory authorities and it will not be a gentle process. It will be very ruthless and it would be determined to find the facts. So I use as an example in work that, in terms of record keeping, you must always think that you were -- if something goes wrong, somebody who is very, very rigorous, who is very well trained is going to go through this and pick out where you are at fault, so you always have to follow your procedures through with the thought that you would be audited. Now clearly some of that is internal, we have to make sure we do it, but it appears to me the NHS does not have that regulatory oversight. And that is amazing, that something which -- you know, they have a very difficult job to do in terms of managing people's health, but equally they have the ability to be detrimental to people's health if they don't do it right. You know, they are not a learning organisation. Nothing I have seen in my encounters with the NHS would encourage me to think that they learn from their mistakes.

25 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: I have worked in the aircraft hanger 102

1 Skipton Fund. In the context of the NHS and the 2 records challenges that there were, what do you think 3 that the Skipton Fund should have done when they were 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

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facing applications from people who couldn't provide those records because they had been destroyed? MR ANDREW BRAGG: They should have made some allowance for it. I mean, they'd be paid to use it as an excuse to reject rather than something which they needed to include in their deliberations, so it was a convenience to allow them to reject people. MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Yes, they didn't take any notice of witness statements. And it was such an isolating period to go through, of no contact with other people who had got the hepatitis C virus, say, a feeling of being sort of victimised and the stigma around having the illness, it's -- yes, it was awful. I think the Skipton Fund didn't seem to really be there to say --

for us; it was there to protect the government. 19 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: Yes. MR PETER FRITH: I felt it should have been more proactive, and it should have undertaken -- I understand it needed to have rigour and, I think, a more friendly response whereby, "Yes, we've noted you have been diagnosed with -- we need to sort this

> information out, let us help you to try and sort this 104

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1 out. We may come to a conclusion that you are not 2 entitled but let us help you", and undertake -- you 3 know, the rigour I went through to demonstrate it, 4 I shouldn't have to do that. And I think that all 5 should have been support for me or point me in the 6 direction where I need to go, or, "We will contact --7 you tell us the name of the hospital, we will contact 8 the hospital". 9

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MR ANDREW BRAGG: Where did the burden of proof lie? It felt to me that I had to prove myself innocent. Whereas, in the balance of probabilities, that should have been taken -- I felt almost like the victim in this. That, you know, I had contracted this disease and -- and yet there was no sympathetic reception to that. There was no trying to understand the balance of where I might have got it. I can understand the need to, you know, look at all the possibilities, but overwhelming for me the probability is that I know where I got it. And yet that didn't fall into the

21 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Within some of your answers there is 22 a sort of mention of the attitudes and the 23 communication within Skipton being a challenge, and 24 Gary, you picked up the point about the standard 25 letters. What are your reflections on the

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label on that she was a high risk case, and nobody told me anything, nobody -- I went there. No-one told me she was a high risk according to the notes and nobody said anything. And then some of the -- when they gave me the notes -- because I asked them for the history, the medical history after Skipton Fund keep rejecting the application, and I was amazed at the dates. You know, from the date she came in, all those dates were missing. The dates were missing.

She came in on the 5th of the 2nd and then all the way down to the, even the ICU, some of those notes were missing.

Then I saw in the same notes that they give me, one of the consultant have had -- sorry, to ask the registrar's one, what happened to some of the notes that he had given -- passed on to them. They were just missing notes. And even with the Skipton Fund, after, they keep telling me, "When you get the right information then you can come back to us". And I went to the register of the death -- you know, registering the death, and I told them what had happened and they said, "Well, you have this", they sent me a form and to fill out the form. But they said the form had to be -- go to the hospital. The hospital had to fill the form out.

communication that you had with them and the style of the letters received?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Impersonal.

4 MR GARY MCKELVEY: Mm.

5 MR PETER FRITH: Very coldly, so ...

6 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: And each of the four rejections 7 there was the same couple of paragraphs at the end of 8 the letter each time. I think it was just a standard 9 letter that had -- they'd popped a little bit of 10 information in beforehand and then that was it and off 11 into the post.

12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What effect did that have on you? 13 We've talked about the effect of the rejection but if 14 you can separate it out, what was the effect of those 15 cold impersonal communications with standard form 16 letters?

17 MS RUBY GILKES: In Anne's case, I mean, I visited a hospital just on three occasions, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, before I went back to London, but I find that, you know, she was complaining about certain things in the hospital and that she wasn't being attended to and she'd keep ring -- because she was in a room on her own when I got there, and she said she would ring the bell and people wouldn't turn up.

When I saw the notes, I saw they had, like, the

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: Just in terms of your interactions with 1 2 Skipton, Ruby, when you were communicating with them, 3 how did you find your communications with the Skipton 4 Fund? 5 MS RUBY GILKES: Well, it was very vague, very vague, and

I would have expected the Skipton Fund, seeing as it 6 7 is in NHS and the hospital NHS, would collaborate 8 together and say, "Well, Mrs Gilkes said that -- what 9 about the death of her sister and, you know, could you 10 look into it?" But nothing was done.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think we are hearing from all the 11 12 panel that problem of the joined up or lack of joined 13 up thinking between the Skipton Fund and the NHS in 14 terms of records.

15 MS RUBY GILKES: I was amazed because the hospital 16 consultant had already written to Skipton Fund 17 regarding the same thing, hepatitis C. It was all 18 there but they did nothing. I don't know.

MR PETER FRITH: I don't understand why the Skipton Fund 19 20 didn't believe what professionals were telling them. 21 I expect, as a professional, people to understand me

22 and believe me. Like you, as a barrister, your

23 advice, I believe you.

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: By that you are meaning your treating 25 clinicians were saying, "This was

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1 transfusion-acquired"? 2 MR PETER FRITH: Yes. And they have examined me, they 3 have taken -- looked at my history, "Yes, this is 4 definitely transfusion-related". Why wasn't that 5 believed? Why did it have to go through all the hoops 6 of having to provide the evidence. You know, it is 7 almost calling these clinicians liars.

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MR ANDREW BRAGG: One thing I never understood was that, why was it my responsibility to interact with the NHS to get my medical records? Why was it not that when I made an application to the Skipton Fund that they then facilitated, using the systems that they would know very well, to do that on my behalf and to help them? So I was always conscious that perhaps I'm not writing to the right people or I've missed people, because I'm not aware of who I had to approach.

I went to the people I thought I needed to do but there were probably more that I missed. So, for me, it would have been far more effective if that, once you made application to the Skipton Fund that they then coordinated the search for medical records. That would be a very -- relatively simply move that would make sure the most effective sweep of the medical records were made available.

25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Gary, I think you had the same 109

> in that hospital. They were never passed on to my GP. In some way you have to bring all this together. You have to integrate it. They are my medical records, my medical history, and yet the system does not look to integrate it to bring it all into one place.

So it isn't standardised, it isn't ordered, and it is not brought together, no wonder you fail.

MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: It all should be -- we've got an NHS number, so when we have a vaccine for the thing, we just give them our NHS number. And when I go abroad and that, it comes up. I can see that I've had this vaccine and that vaccine. Why isn't it all done like that? We've all got an NHS number. It should all just go on a computer under that number and everything we've ever had done should be -- come up on the screen. It is not that hard nowadays, is it? It is not like they have to post a letter. It is on

19 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Does anyone else have any thoughts on 20 records?

21 MR PETER FRITH: I'd give them 1 out of 10.

22 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: What would you give them 1 for?

23 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Nothing!

24 MR PETER FRITH: Should we not have been given the 25 option -- before someone destroys the records, should experience of going round in circles.

MR GARY MCKELVEY: Yes, I'm just nodding as Andy's speaking because I agree totally, because you don't know where you are going and I have just got two documents in front of me, so -- one from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, the other from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. In terms of how they make you feel, so it ends in both cases with:

"If you require any further help please do not hesitate to contact me."

In other words, don't bother because, you know, they can't -- if I go back then they send me somewhere else, yeah? So they are closing the door with that last sentence effectively.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Along those lines, a number of you have had to try to obtain patient records from a multitude of hospitals and GP surgeries and the complexities of a different GP where someone has died.

Do you have any thoughts on how much the fact that records are dispersed have added to the difficulties? 21 MR ANDREW BRAGG: Absolutely. It seemed to me absurd that wherever you get treated, so if you move around the country, or even -- in my case I was visiting my father and I got sepsis, so in Chesterfield Hospital they have medical records for me for that period I was

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we not be given the option to actually receive them ourselves and look after them ourselves? I understand prior to digitalisation -- digitisation there had been masses of paperwork and masses of records. Surely before an option is taken to destroy, they should try to locate that person and say, "Do you want these -we'll pass these over to you or your current GP", rather than just blanketly destroy -- I know it's probably not -- but they would have -- they don't --10 send them out to last addresses, no feedback, fair

enough. But a process should be in place where the

12 option to keep those records should be in place 13 because it's -- you know, somebody who was in hospital 14 when they were a child, it may be important that that

15 information is kept on record and not destroyed.

16 MR ANDREW BRAGG: I think the clue is in the name 17 "history". History goes back quite a long way. 18 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: I had a car crash in France, and when

they finished with me in the hospital I got a folder with the x-rays they'd taken, all what they'd done to me, all in a folder, given to me, and I said, "Why are you giving them to me?" And they basically said, "Well, what good is it to us?" And they just gave it to me. And I've still have it at home now, for what

reason I don't know, I mean. But I have just kept it

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2 interesting to get the x-rays out and show them. 3 MR ANDREW BRAGG: Oh. I wish I'd done that. When I came 4 back from Norway I came back with a folder this size 5 (indicated). Not only did it have all my medical 6 records, I had every x-ray that had been taken while 7 I was in the hospital. I made the mistake of taking 8 that with me when I went to Broadgreen Hospital for 9 the first time, and I never saw it again. 10 MS FRASER BUTLIN: For those of you who have been bereaved 11

because I was quite badly hurt and it's quite

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and speaking about loved ones who have died, I have been asked to ask what your thoughts are on the support that should have been available to you from the funds in the particular context of applying in relation to someone who had died?

16 MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: I don't think the Skipton Fund even 17 know that my husband passed away. Perhaps if 18 something had been in place whereby there was, as you 19 said, more communication between the applicants and 20 the Skipton Fund, they would perhaps have some 21 counselling in place to offer bereaved partners, 22 parents. That would probably have been really 23 helpful.

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Gary, do you have any thoughts on that? MR GARY MCKELVEY: Again, it is a long time ago but it

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would have been -- and again retrospectively -- it would have been useful for my mother at the time to have had some sort of, I don't know, psychological or counselling support, and some guidance maybe as to whether there are any remedies or routes for her to get some level of assistance because suddenly she is left on her own. I have two brothers but none of us live at home so she is a little bit isolated. It would have been very useful to have something, but we had nothing. No support.

Just one comment regarding the records, in the record recording process, I thought actually it was only after death that they destroyed records but, as I have listened, it appears that you don't have to have died. They can still lose the records or destroy them. It is just an observation.

17 MR PETER FRITH: In line with hospital policy.

MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: I think they lose the records they 18 19 want to lose.

20 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, do you have any questions you want 21 to ask the panel in terms of themes before we invite 22 Mr BD to give evidence?

23 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: No. I don't think I do. I have 24 listened very carefully to what you have all been 25 saying.

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can I just check with the legal representative? In which case, sir, I wonder if we might take

3 4 a short break --

SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Well, no, I think let us do this first. Shouldn't each of our panelists have the opportunity that everyone else has had to say anything that they may wish to say.

9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, absolutely they should.

Apologies. I missed that part. Indeed.

Shall we go along the line.

12 Andrew, would you like to start. Is there 13 anything --

14 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: The only question which occurs to 15 me -- I'm sorry to interrupt -- is we do have our 16 anonymous witness, who will come after the break, and 17 they will be given the same opportunity, but plainly 18 they won't have the opportunity to engage in the panel 19 discussion. I think that's something which is 20 probably inevitable. I don't think there is any way 21 we can sensibly accommodate that but if there is, now 22 is your chance to tell me.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Indeed, sir, no. We have thought quite 23 24 hard about this and discussed it with our anonymous 25 witness. What I plan to do with Mr BD is take him

1 through his own evidence and then ask him to reflect 2 on some of the discussions we have had this afternoon 3 and he has been listening to those. So hopefully we 4 will be able to have a shorter or different thematic 5 conversation picking up some of the discussions we 6 have already had this afternoon.

7 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: That way his voice will be heard 8

9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: His voice will be heard too, both in 10 relation to his own story and in relation to the 11 thematic points this panel have very helpfully 12 discussed.

13 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Thank you.

14 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Andrew, if we start with you, is there 15 anything else you would like to say?

16 MR ANDREW BRAGG: No, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to be here and say this. It has been quite an isolated experience and certainly a strong theme about not being listened to, not being supported. So my hope is that from this Inquiry that things change, that what went wrong is recognised and accepted and how the NHS as an organisation operates in future learns from this, and adopts it. And it is the adoption which is very important because there is

> a history in government of having inquiries and then 116

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1 not following through on it. 2 But absolutely crucial that we have this, and I'm 3 more than happy to have been involved. 4 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Thank you.

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: Gary? MR GARY MCKELVEY: Right, from a personal point of view I wasn't looking forward to coming here today, so that is the first thing. However, I would like really to thank all of the people involved in the Infected Blood 10 Inquiry team because right from the beginning -- and 11 I met a lady this morning because I was trying to sort 12 of set the history for this when I was sat last night 13 on my own and she was the first person to contact me, 14 almost four years ago. And those people who visited 15 me at home and provided information and support, you 16 know, I would like to thank them also. And all of the 17 people here on this panel, it has been really quite 18 cathartic to listen to the experience of others 19 because I think, as Andy said, sometimes you feel 20 isolated, a little bit remote from what's happening,

25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Ruby, is there anything you would like

you don't feel believed. And that's all we want, or

I want and hope for the rest, is to be believed.

Nothing more. Thank you.

and the one thing above and beyond anything else is

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signed and this hospital that is shut down, they completely shut down. They tell me they don't have nothing else to say. So I don't know really what to do. So I'm in a limbo with family and with the hospital and I want that cleared up and I will not cease until something is done about it. That is my determination, because whatever has been done, nobody, you know, come out to say anything, nobody -- she has family. Nobody knows. And the hospital to behave like that, I have never seen it in my lifetime, in my working time. I have never seen this. For a hospital to shut down and say they don't have nothing to say.

13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thank you.

14 MS RUBY GILKES: That's what I want to see happen. 15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Peter, is there anything you would like 16 to say?

MR PETER FRITH: Yes, like Andy, at the end -- I think hopefully at the end of this Inquiry the NHS can learn from this and put things in place, such as record keeping, and things don't happen again in the future.

I would like to thank everybody here for listening to us. Like others, I was very nervous about coming and doing this. Hopefully doing so helps other people who have suffered. Last of all, I wanted to thank the lady I mentioned before, Sandra Taylor, because

to say?

MS RUBY GILKES: I just want to say thank you very much for listening and, sir, very much for the work that he is doing, and what I would like to really see happen in my sister's situation at the moment is with the document of the death certificate, which has not been correctly done, I have family at the moment that we cannot say what Anne has died of.

I don't know what else to do. I went everywhere, lawyers, everybody. I don't know what else to do, and I would just like that cleared up because my family is not happy not knowing, not seeing what happened during the death of my sister, and I am the one that is being crushed because I had the power of attorney and they say I did not use it correctly as -- even to let them see the body, even despite. And I don't know really what to do. I don't know who to go to. There is nobody out there. Everyone I go to, everywhere is just like it is dead. I don't know.

But with the Skipton Fund up to now, they ask me to say that I should go to this advice bureau, which in my area there is none, and there is nobody to go to and that I should take it to court, which I'm trying now to get a solicitor or a lawyer or whatever to take the matter to court to get this death certificate

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1 without her I wouldn't be here.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Rachael, is there anything you would like to say?

MS RACHAEL TERSTEEG: Well, I managed half an hour's sleep last night and that was all before coming here. I was also very anxious even though we had had a Zoom call previously last week. The support from yourselves, from Collins(?) and here this morning today has just been, just the opposite end of the scale to the Skipton Fund. You have just all been so kind and not only sensitive but understanding, and it just feels like we are on the same side instead of having to go into battle.

I came here just on the off chance that Rio phoned me and said, "Would you like to consider coming?" Although I had read some of the articles, I didn't think I would be able to manage coming. But here I am and so pleased to have heard others and shared stories. Again, just so that you don't feel the isolation and to just try and go forward for my husband who had put so much hard work and time into fighting this, so really carrying on the baton.

Thank you, everyone.

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And Robert?

25 MR ROBERT BAMFORTH: I would just like to thank everyone.

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1 You have all been really good because I have not got 2 a lot of faith in this sort of thing. It's never done 3 me any good before. And you have all been so helpful 4 and -- everyone I spoke to has been just so helpful, 5 put me at ease and sorted out things I can't do 6 myself. And it is good to be able to -- because 7 I have kept it to myself for years, to be able to tell 8 people -- and I can actually tell people out in the 9 street now about it, where I have never told anyone 10 about it because you have made it, like, official, if 11 you get what I mean. It's not our fault and -- so, 12 yeah, it's been good to be able to come out with it 13 all. And to hear these other people with exactly the 14 same stories.

15 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Andrew?

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16 MR ANDREW BRAGG: One final observation and it is about 17 regulations.

> The Piper Alpha disaster lost 173 people and the Cullen Report fundamentally changed my industry, oil and gas and chemical. I hope this Inquiry can do the same thing because what I see is fundamental failings right across the NHS, not just in terms of how specifically it dealt with this but, by implication, how it, as an organisation, functions. And I hope that that regulatory framework that applies to the

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most of you, how challenging it was to bring yourselves to come to give evidence in this Inquiry, and indeed that's underwritten by the fact that the next witness will be anonymous and wishes to be anonymous and you have chosen not to be. Can I, without in any way taking away from him and his anonymity, which is fully understandable, applaud your courage in being prepared to come at all and being prepared to sit here in front of everyone and to tell your story to what is out there, the world. It has been affirming.

Can I also say that one of the themes that I have picked up, rightly or wrongly, and people can argue about that later on in the Inquiry, is that there is quite a contrast between the evidence that I heard when we looked at Skipton -- you will remember the evidence of Mr Fish and others -- which emphasised, I think implied, a lack of appropriate or sufficient resource to do what you have all suggested, to look at the records, obtain them for people, help them to do that because of the challenges of time and money. What you have each I think given us is the patient perspective.

It is all very well to look at institutions and say, "Well, we can't do that because it will cost too chemical industry, something similar could actually help shape the NHS to behave differently, because at the moment it seems to me that they are a law unto themselves. And that will not just, you know, reflect on how it's dealt with on HCV but it reflects on a number of other ways in which other unfortunate incidents have occurred.

So I would hope that that regulatory approach can form part of the report, about how we can get the NHS as an organisation to shape up and respond effectively. Because it has failed to do so here.

Fundamentally, for me, as an organisation, first is do no harm and yet they have done harm to a large number of people in this. And a lot more people than 173 people have died. So the magnitude of the issue, the error, the problem, is far greater in respect of this Inquiry than it was to what happened in my industry.

19 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Can I for my part thank -- may I apologise first for not thanking you individually. It would be invidious to do so because you are here as a panel but can I thank you all and pick up some of the themes that you have mentioned, particularly in the last few comments.

> You have said, most of you, not all of you but 122

much and because it will do this and do that", this is what you have been saying to me I think, and I have to decide how right or wrong that is. What you have said is, "What about us? Look at the way we look at it, look at the way we feel", and you have all told me about how you have felt being disbelieved when really what was the basis for that, is I think what you have been asking.

So thank you very much for putting that different perspective to us and through this Inquiry to others. You deserve our appreciation and I'm very glad to give it. Thank you.

We will take a break then for half an hour. You are very welcome to stay or go. Your life is your own entirely but you are welcome to stay should you wish. We will take a break until shall we say 3.20 pm.

17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thank you, sir. 18 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: 3.20 pm.

19 (2.49 pm)

(A short break)

21 (3.23 pm)

22 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Now Mr BD.

23 MR BD: Good afternoon.

24 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: You are on screen to me and to 25 counsel. You are not on screen to anyone else in this

1 room. I have told people this morning, you may have 2 heard, I don't know, that there is an anonymity order 3 which covers you and your evidence, and I am sure that 4 those here don't want to hear me repeat it again, just 5 to remind you of it. 6 Now, I will ask you to take the oath. You are 7 affirming, so would you repeat after me please. 8 MR BD (affirmed) 9 **Examined by MS FRASER BUTLIN** 10 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Thank you, Ms Fraser Butlin. 11 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Mr BD, can you see and hear me? 12 MR BD: I can, yes. 13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: When you were 8, you had an accident.

14 Can you tell us what happened?

15 MR BD: So I was playing in the front driveway of our 16 house and was climbing on the walls and slipped and 17 fell, and as I fell it turned out some of the chunks 18 of brick on the top of the wall were loose and 19 I pulled them down on top of my arm and broke my arm.

20 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And what was the nature of the break to 21 your arm?

22 MR BD: So I suffered a double compound fracture of both 23 radius and ulna.

24 MS FRASER BUTLIN: How much blood was involved in the 25 accident?

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further bleeding, which had soaked through the plaster cast, but they decided not to replace it at the time because it was too unstable.

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Afterwards, I remember being laid up for some time and feeling pretty awful, but I think that is to be expected of an eight-year old having suffered that trauma.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: You also remember getting some flu-like symptoms not long after surgery; is that right?

10 MR BD: Yes, it is, yes. Again, I couldn't attest to 11 whether that was just -- I was probably on some fairly 12 hefty painkillers.

13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: How did you come to find you had 14 hepatitis C?

MR BD: So completely incidental findings. So I was actually being investigated for a diagnosis of vitiligo in 2013, which I realised I had, and went to the hospital to get that diagnosis confirmed, and part of the work up of that was to look at potential auto-immune causes of the vitiligo, so they confirmed the diagnosis and did a raft of blood tests. And at the point, the SPR carrying out the blood tests decided to do hepatitis.

Now, she's -- I have spoken to her since and she still doesn't really know why she did it. She said

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MR BD: So there was significant bleeding to the point, 1 2 well, my father found me in the next door neighbour's 3 front yard with blood spurting out of my arm and spent 4 a lot of the next day cleaning the blood off their 5 path. So that's, you know, my memories of the blood 6 loss.

7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You underwent surgery at Scarborough 8 General Hospital in September 1975. 9

Do you have any recollection of having a blood transfusion?

11 MR BD: I don't, no.

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12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: It is right, isn't it, that your father 13 has died and your mother is very elderly and doesn't 14 know you are infected with hepatitis C?

15 MR BD: That's right, yes. So my memory of the injury is 16 of seeing the bone sticking out of my arm in hospital, 17 seeing it bleeding excessively, and then being put under and taken into surgery. 18

19 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And after surgery, how well were you 20 post-surgery?

21 MR BD: So I was in surgery for a number of hours that 22 night and then allowed home that night, on condition 23 that they brought me back to fracture clinic the next 24 morning so they could check the alignment of the 25 bones. By which point there had been significant

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1 she would not normally be part of the work-up for 2 a vitiligo autoimmune raft of tests, but she did it 3 and it came back positive for hep C.

4 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You simply said in your statement that 5 she simply said, "Let's do the lot".

6 MR BD: Absolutely. I have spoken to her since, like 7 I say, and she's not sure what made her do it, but 8 thankfully she did.

9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You had a follow-up appointment soon 10 after and also a FibroScan after diagnosis. What was 11 the state of your liver when you had that FibroScan?

MR BD: Bad. Full on cirrhotic. So my liver function 12 tests at that point were wildly deranged. And I had 13 14 MRI, CT, I had full radiological skeletal survey and, 15 as you say, FibroScan. The FibroScan came back with 16 a -- I can't remember the exact KPA figure but it was

17 around 20, which is -- anything over 10 is deemed 18 cirrhotic.

20 seriousness of cirrhotic liver disease? What were you

21 told about how serious things were? 22 MR BD: So I have some medical knowledge, so I knew

MS FRASER BUTLIN: What was your understanding of the

23 immediately it was a death sentence, incurable, 24 irreversible. So my immediate response was, "Tell me

25 how long I've got".

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: And what were you told? 1 2 MR BD: I was told 10 to 15 years, and that's nine years 3 4 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Can you tell us anything of the impact 5 that had on you, of that news? 6 MR BD: Completely devastating. You go from worrying 7 about have I got vitiligo and the vanity around how 8 that might affect your appearance to suddenly that 9 being so far from relevant it is unbelievable and your 10 whole world is turned upside down and suddenly --11 I was 46 at the time -- you are told when you are 12 going to die. So it was pretty devastating. 13 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You were at that stage unable to have 14 interferon. Why was that? 15 MR BD: So I was profoundly thrombocytopenic, and still 16 am. MS FRASER BUTLIN: That is a low platelet count? 17 MR BD: Yes. And neutropenic, low neutrophils, 18 19 lymphopenic, low lymphocytes, and so the feeling was 20 that interferon would be -- it could probably be 21 supported through haematology but it would be risky 22 because it is likely to drop my counts even further. 23 It would take an awful lot of support without 24 a guarantee that it would clear the virus, and also,

2 NICE approval. So the decision was made that it was 3 better for me to hang on and hopefully be able to be 4 treated with one of the new directly acting drugs. 5 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In 2015 you became aware that the 6 European Medicines Agency had licensed Harvoni. 7 MR BD: Yes. 8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What did you then do in relation to 9 that? 10 MR BD: So, again, I have lots of close contact with my 11 medical team, trying to track the NICE pathway to see 12 how long it was going to be until it was available on 13 the NHS, and then juggled with the idea of self 14 funding, which was going to cost about 60,000. Each 15 time I came to the conclusion that I wanted to self 16 fund because I was fully aware that all the time I was 17 still HCV positive it was causing further damage to my 18 liver. I -- the NICE approval looked like it was only 19 two months away each time, and so although knowing 20 that NICE approvals constantly get kicked down the 21 road then I still kept for a while thinking, no, I'm 22 not going to self fund, then eventually made the 23 decision I was going to self fund, and then a week 24 later NICE approved it. 25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You had arranged to borrow the money in 130

on the horizon, so they were making their way through

1 June 2015.

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2 MR BD: Yes, I had.

3 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you were told you would receive Harvoni on the NHS shortly after. 4

at this point, the new directly acting antivirals were

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5 MR BD: Yes, absolutely.

6 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And you started treatment in November 2015. 7

8 MR BD: Yes. So unfortunately there were further delays 9 and it was another six months before I was actually 10 able to start the treatment. But got there in the 11 end.

12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: What was your situation when you 13 received the treatment, how well or unwell were you 14 with it?

15 MR BD: So with the treatment or with the condition?

MS FRASER BUTLIN: With the treatment.

16 17 MR BD: So the treatment was -- compared to people who 18 have been treated with interferon, it was a cake walk. 19 So it is only three months. And the ribavirin does 20 give you some issues with depression. It was -- there 21 was insomnia but, to be honest, I worked through it.

22 I was always -- I didn't have to take time off work

23 through it and I still was able to exercise through

24 it. Not very well but I was -- it was okay. To be

25 honest, it was fine.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: You cleared the virus but continued to 1 2 have six-monthly FibroScans.

3 MR BD: No, so the -- so I continue to this day to have 4 six-monthly ultrasounds to check for hepatocellular 5 carcinoma, and I have six-monthly blood tests to check 6 my liver function. FibroScan isn't part of routine 7 surveillance. I've had I think two or so FibroScans 8 in the nine years since.

9 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Your infections had a huge impact on 10 you. What do you want to tell us about that?

MR BD: Well, it has had a massive -- you know at the time, myself and my partner had just decided we were going to have children, or try and have children, and that -- the diagnosis literally came weeks after, and at that point I couldn't cope with the concept of the risk of transmission to my partner, the risk of transmission to -- in utero to children if that happened.

Also I couldn't cope with the idea of not being there to bring up my children and leaving them fatherless. So that went out of the window. The ongoing impact -- it affects every decision you make. Every time you are thinking, "Shall we go on that dream holiday next year?" half of you is thinking, "Yes, I need to do it now while I still can", but half

1	of me is also debating internally whether I should do
2	it because I'm trying to make sure that my partner
3	will be financially secure when I'm gone. It affects
4	every decision.
5	MS FRASER BUTLIN: In terms of the Skipton Fund, in
6	March 2014, you were told about the fund by your
7	treating doctor, is that right?
8	MR BD: Yes.
9	MS FRASER BUTLIN: And at that point you tried to obtain
10	your records from Scarborough Hospital?
11	MR BD: Yes.
12	MS FRASER BUTLIN: What were you told by them? What were
13	you told had happened to your records?
14	MR BD: That they had been destroyed. So that everyone's
15	records were destroyed upon or shortly after their
16	25th birthday.
17	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Were you required you were provided
18	with at least one page from Scarborough Hospital in
19	terms of the accident and emergency department and we
20	are going to look at that document in a moment. When
21	they sent you that, were you required to pay for the
22	limited records they were able to provide you with?
23	MR BD: No, I wasn't.
24	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Could we just turn to the document
25	which is the A&E record.
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start with.

We can see here that your application has been declined. If we go down the page it says this:

"Our assessors acknowledge that you do have chronic hepatitis C however, there is no evidence to support a history of transfusion.

"The assessors stated that it is highly unlikely that a transfusion would have occurred, and would not usually be necessary at an operation to repair a broken wrist."

You appealed that decision and I just want to look at your email in response as your appeal and then ask you about it. If we go back to page 2 of the same document. It is the paragraph at the bottom.

You indicate you wish to appeal and then you wrote this:

"It seems clear from the wording of the explanation of the declined claim that the assessors have not read the application properly. They describe it as 'an operation to repair a broken wrist'. If the documentation provided had been read properly they would see that nowhere is the word 'wrist' mentioned, and to dismiss the injury as such is more than a little insulting. As clearly stated, the injury was a double compound fracture of the radius and ulna;

SKIP0000072_006. And it is page 5 I would like, please, Lawrence.

What we can see here on the left is:

"Compound [fracture] lower [left] end radius and ulna."

Then on the right:

"Compound [fracture] of [left] radius and ulna." Something that's difficult to read and then a little further down there is a note that Pethidine had been given. Then:

"However on call contacted for advice. Sutures to the closure to the wound. No vascular or tendon injury. Check x-ray in the morning."

That's what's on the A&E record. And that's the only document that you were able to obtain in relation to the entire incident, is that right?

17 MR BD: It is, yes.

18 MS FRASER BUTLIN: When you applied to the Skipton Fund19 the first time, you were rejected by them?

20 MR BD: That's right.

21 MS FRASER BUTLIN: You then re-applied to the EIBSS in
22 2020, is that right?

23 MR BD: Yeah.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: And if we can turn to that document.
 WITN4211002, please. It is page 3 I would like to

this means that both bones were fractured, and the fractures were in the middle of my forearm. Further, just to clarify, the word 'compound' means that this involved an open wound. This open double fracture led to large loss of blood (my father spent many hours the following day cleaning the blood off the neighbours path), and the surgery was long and involved; it is my strongly held opinion, and the equally strong assertion of my medical team, that it is highly likely that such a serious injury in a young child would have required blood transfusion, and that this is the cause of my infection with hepatitis C."

That was the email you sent in appeal and you have referred to the original refusal of your application as more than a little insulting. Can you explain to us how you felt about the original refusal?

MR BD: Yes. I mean, I think reading that email again you can almost -- my fury is tangible. I think for me it is not the rejection, it is the manner of the rejection. And to see the words, you know, "compound fracture of radius and ulna", and describe that as a broken wrist is either a panel misunderstanding what the words radius and ulna mean, in which case that panel is not fit for purpose, or it is a deliberate attempt to diminish the severity of the injury, to

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them.

then subsequently justify a rejection of the appeal. 2 And either way I don't think that is a panel that's 3 fit for purpose. And I was very angry. 4 MS FRASER BUTLIN: And your appeal was rejected again. 5 MR BD: Yes. And it was rejected again without any 6 reference whatsoever to my description of -- you know, 7 or highlighting of them describing my injury as 8 a broken wrist. 9 Now, I would at the very least have expected them 10 to say, "Yes, you're right. It doesn't say 'wrist'. 11 Sorry about that. It says you had a broken radius and

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ulna", but there was no acknowledgement of it whatsoever. MS FRASER BUTLIN: I think you were listening into the earlier discussion with the panel this afternoon, and one of the things we talked about was the effect of the rejections on people's mental wellbeing. Can

17 18 you -- do you have any reflections on that for 19 vourself?

MR BD: Yes. I mean, I think the main responses I heard earlier were both anger and devastation.

Now, I think mine was mainly anger because I was fully expecting to be rejected, because I was aware anecdotally that the Skipton Fund appeared to be set up to require a level of proof that most people

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have any reflections on that part of our discussion? MR BD: So, yes, I agree with what they said entirely. In an ideal world, we wouldn't be expected to retrieve the records ourselves, because, you know, you hunt around and you don't know where those records are, you don't know whether you've asked the right guestions to the right people, and it would be very good if you knew that that was being done on your behalf.

Now, the -- in retrospect, knowing what I know now about the way that they acted. I wouldn't trust them to do it. So, that's the dichotomy, is that if the Skipton Fund said, "Oh, we have tried and we couldn't find your records", after the treatment of that and the EIBSS support scheme, I'm not sure that I would trust them to do it. That is my -- how low my opinion of that Fund has got.

17 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In terms of records and the difficulties in finding records, you were obviously told that the majority had been destroyed.

> What are your thoughts on record keeping and the ability to access them?

22 MR BD: So the NHS's record keeping has for a long time 23 been shambolic and I think this demonstrates it very, 24 very amply.

> We should have -- I was shocked when I found out 139

couldn't provide because their records had been destroyed. So I wasn't so much devastated by the rejection, I was angered by the manner of the rejection. It felt patronising and disrespectful to my injury. I would have hoped that they would at least try to understand what had happened and understand the full extent of the injury and then make an educated professional assessment of that.

Perhaps with, you know, recourse to appropriate professionals -- you know, they say in their letter that on their panel they have got a liver expert, a haematology expert. Now, my injury was orthopaedic. So to reject on the basis that -- I would hope that a panel like this, to function properly, would perhaps canvass the opinion of one or two paediatric orthopaedic surgeons, preferably ones who had experience of treatment protocols in the '70s and say to them, "Do you think a transfusion is likely in that circumstance, now we have all the details of that injury?" And there is very little effort made, in my opinion.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: That was something that the panel also discussed earlier this afternoon, of the question of the Skipton Fund being more proactive in terms of obtaining information and obtaining records. Do you 138

1 that all my records had been destroyed because I don't 2 know whether I was just naive, but I wasn't aware of 3 that as a policy, and I do think that an organisation fit for purpose would probably have asked for consent 4 5 of the patients and said, "This is our plan. If you 6 wish to retain these records, you need to do it 7 yourself", but at least give you the opportunity, as 8 one of the panel said earlier, to keep the records 9 yourself. Because you don't know when you might need

> But, you know, all that being said, they have probably been sitting in cardboard boxes at six different hospitals for all sorts of years, so how much use they would have been and how traceable they would have been, I don't know anyway.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: With that dispersion of records in 16 17 multiple different locations, do you have any 18 recollections on what a different system might look 19 like?

MR BD: Obviously, digitation has made all that much easier and hopefully now much better. NHS hospitals have always worked in silos and they still, to quite an extent, do, so the cross-fertilisation of data and information is wanting, and it was very poor then. You were going back to the '70s. It was appallingly

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bad. But one of the panel did make the point earlier on that in a lot of industries their record keeping has to be pristine.

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The NHS seems to be able to get away with writing very perfunctory notes in a completely illegible way and only half-filled-in records and half-retained records, which is pretty awful.

Now, it has all happened and we can't change that now. One of the lessons that has to come out of an inquiry like this has to be that they have got to get better.

12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Given the state of the records historically, do you have any reflections on how the Skipton Fund should have been operating within that

MR BD: So the constant reference throughthe Skipton Fund and the EIBSS to "There is sufficient evidence" is really irksome when that evidence has been destroyed

You know, don't keep telling me there is no evidence. I know there is no evidence. Don't then use that for a reason for rejecting it. We need to take it as read that there is no evidence because it has been destroyed. Now, we need to look at the injury and we need to look at it with due diligence.

You know, they should have come back to me when 141

rejection. You know, when there isn't the evidence --I don't know for a fact that I had a blood transfusion. Nobody knows that. And so there has to be a tolerance set somewhere or else anybody could write in and say, "Give me compensation, I have HCV". There has to be a tolerance set somewhere. But in light of the fact that everybody's data has been destroyed, everybody's records have been destroyed, that tolerance doesn't seem to be -- and whether this is down to what Sir Brian said earlier on about Skipton's claim to lack of funding, whether it is down to lack of funding or whatever, it doesn't feel to me like there is due diligence around the process. There's been no effort made to fully understand the injuries or the conditions that some of the other panel described earlier on.

I mean, I was guite frankly shocked by the level of evidence that some of the panel earlier today had, way in excess of mine, and they still got rejected. I was listening to them thinking, well, how on earth can they be rejected? It is obvious that they had transfusions within that time frame. And I would have -- if they had explored the injury, taken my testimony about the severity of the injury, spoken to paediatric orthopaedic surgeons and got testimony from I disputed them calling my break a broken wrist. I could send them a photograph of the scar. It is in the middle of my forearm, it is not my wrist, so they could have done that, and they could have asked for my testimony. And I think, and a number of the panel earlier on made the same point, that the testimony of the people themselves, us, is ignored. It is almost that that is taken as, "Let's not believe that". We were there. I was there. I know and I still carry the scars so I know what the injury was better than anybody. Better than anybody alive, actually, because my father is the only other person who saw that injury, because my mum never looked at it, so I saw it and he saw it.

Now, they didn't even ask me any of those questions. It is almost like -- this is why I used the word "patronising" earlier on. It treats us like they know best. It's almost like getting a pat on the head, "No, you just had a broken wrist". Well, actually no, I didn't just have a broken wrist.

21 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Having listened to the panel earlier, 22 do you have any other reflections on what was 23 discussed?

24 MR BD: I don't. I mean, I think the main points I wanted 25 to make through this were that it is not the

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them, and they'd come back and said, "No, you wouldn't have had a transfusion", I would have said, "Okay, maybe I didn't", and I would have felt like it had been taken seriously, thoroughly examined and reached a logical, professional conclusion.

That's what I would have expected from a fit for purpose support scheme.

MS FRASER BUTLIN: Thank you.

9 Sir, do you have any questions for Mr BD? SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: No, I don't think I do.

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MS FRASER BUTLIN: Mr BD, is there anything else you would 11 12 like to add in relation to your evidence?

13 MR BD: No, there isn't. I just want to thank you for the 14 opportunity to tell my story and it has been very 15 interesting and illuminating listening to the rest of 16 the panel as well.

17 **SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF:** Can I, for my part, thank you very 18 much for having made the courage to come and tell us 19 what has been powerful and I think still angry

20 testimony -- and you are agreeing with that I can see.

21 MR BD: Yes. The EIBSS rejection is quite recent so 22 that's probably why I'm still -- if I talk about it

23 I get passionate, shall I say.

24 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Yes, I have a feeling it is quite 25 raw still.

3 3

1	MR BD: Yes.	1	INDEX	
2	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Well, thank you very much anyway for	2	MR ANDREW JAMES BRAGG (sworn)	2
3	telling us. You have covered not only the question of	3	MR GARY HUGH MCKELVEY (affirmed)	2
4	rejection but also the recent knowledge of it and the	4	MS RUBY PERLINE GILKES (affirmed)	2
5	recent treatment, so thank you.	5	MR PETER FRITH (affirmed)	2
6	MR BD: Pleasure.	6	MS RACHAEL JOY TERSTEEG (sworn)	3
7	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Now, Ms Fraser Butlin, tomorrow?	7	MR ROBERT NORMAN BAMFORTH (sworn)	3
8	MS FRASER BUTLIN: Tomorrow, sir, we will hear from	8	Examined by MS FRASER BUTLIN	3
9	a panel of witnesses about the experiences of people	9	MR BD (affirmed)	125
10	with hepatitis C who cleared the infection without	10	Examined by MS FRASER BUTLIN	125
11	treatment.	11		
12	The people who are giving evidence are	12		
13	Wayne Gathercole, Marlene Neve, Kevin Roberts and	13		
14	Steven Towsey.	14		
15	SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Very well. Tomorrow at 10.00.	15		
16	(3.54 pm)	16		
17	(The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Tuesday,	17		
18	27 September 2022)	18		
19		19		
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