Witness Name: Gary Bennett
Statement No: WITN0297001
Exhibits:Nil
Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF Gary Bennett

I, Gary Bennett provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 7 December 2018.

I, Gary Bennett will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Gary Bennett. My date of birth and address are known to the Inquiry. I live with my partner, Renee Bennett, to whom I was previously married, we split up for a while but we have been back together for about 8 years. We have 4 children between us. We had Kerry together and we have 3 other children from our previous relationships and we have 4 grandchildren.

2. I am one of 3 boys but my younger brother Tony, who was also a haemophiliac, died at the age of 33, 13 years ago. I have one other brother Barry, GRO-C

3. I met Renee, through someone else when I was on a Youth Training Scheme (YTS) when I was 17 years old. We just clicked and always have done. I used to pick her friend up at Lords Hill, up the road, I was the 'taxi' because I used to drive everywhere as I didn't drink. While we were out one night I told Renee and our friend that I had something to tell them. Renee's response was "are you going to tell us you have AID's?" Once I had told them Renee became upset and felt bad for having said what she did.

4. However we subsequently got together when we were 19 years old, in 1987 and married in March 1989. Our first daughter, Kerry, was born in 1989

5. I intend to speak about myself, my illness and how I came to be infected with HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C (HCV). In particular, the nature of my illness, how it affected me, the treatment received and the impact it had on me and my family and our lives together.

Section 2. How Infected

6. I have been asked where and how I became infected. I was infected through blood products whilst at Lord Mayor Treloar College (LMT) which was a school for disabled children. They had a special haemophilia centre so when we were bad with bleeds we would go to the sickbay. There were about 100 haemophiliacs, boys. As far as I am concerned I contracted HIV and hepatitis from the Factor VIII I was given. I was later diagnosed with Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

7. My parents were advised that I should be put in boarding school because of my haemophilia so I went to a boarding school on GRO-C, near Portsmouth when I was 5 years old. I do remember that it wasn't a good time. I knew I had haemophilia, I had bad knees and I knew why as I used to go into hospital with this problem.

8. I left that school when I was 9 and went to a couple of local schools. At the time we didn't know about Treloar. When I was ten or eleven years old, a letter came through saying I had a place at Lord Mayor Treloar, but as it turned out that there was no space and I lost my place. As a result I went to another school for disabled children called Cedar school.

9. My brother and I ended up going to Lord Mayor Treloar in Alton. Tony my brother was a year behind me. He was classed as a severe haemophiliac, we were both severe but he was worse than me. His knees were also bad and he was the youngest. I could never understand why, they should have given so much stuff to him, but he was worse. I am 52 years old now and I've achieved most of the things I wanted to do.

10. There were 3 of us, Barry my other brother, GRO-C I was the oldest, Barry the middle brother and Tony the youngest. Tony and I had haemophilia GRO-C . GRO-C GRO-C

11. Being eleven and going into a school like Lord Mayor Treloar opened my eyes to all the disabilities. I am classed as disabled as a haemophiliac. Two years ago I relented and had a knee operation albeit I had been advised to have this operation twenty years earlier. I now have what I describe as a 'bionic knee' and it is the best thing I have ever done.

12. I have been asked about the treatment I received at LMT for my haemophilia. They gave me Factor VIII from the start. If for example I had an elbow bleed they would give you prophylaxis, you would hear this word a lot at the school. We would be given Factor VIII and sometimes this could be twice a day or twice a week. I have disagreed with it because I felt it hammers my veins. They would put you on it to try and calm it down. They told us it was prophylaxis Factor VIII and they would give it even though I didn't want it. I used to argue with the doctor and say that I didn't want it.

13. We lived at GRO-C when the haemophiliac issue was just coming into public awareness. I remember it was 1975-76 with the hot summer. We started off with plasma cryoprecipitate. I remember many a day sitting up there at Southampton General hospital. I was getting Cryoprecipitate in '75-76. Tony and I would have to sit on the drip bag, which was frozen plasma, to warm it up. It was like snot going through and it hurt.

14. My brother was hammered with prophylaxes. I don't like the word and don't agree with it and I would say no to it. They gave us Factor VIII and they taught us how to administer it to ourselves. We used to have a nurse who showed us how to do it. We would sit on an old school table, there were massive bottles of Factor VIII and we would syringe it up. Looking back now, Tony was severe, he was always in sickbay, and I wasn't.

15. I remember odd bits like sitting down and having a needle, but I can't remember being taught how to administer it. I know that sounds weird. Tony was on it every other day. Towards the end of his life it didn't work. He put on weight. Tony lived in GRO-C and I was in GRO-C We would talk on the phone as he was going to St Thomas's in London for his treatment. When we talked about our knee or elbow we would seem to have the same pains, it was like there was empathy between us. One bottle of Factor VIII generally contained about 2,000 units. Mine were about a 1,000 units but Tony's were triple, Tony's would be 10,000 units. Sometimes I would take some of Tony's if I had run out of mine and it wiped me out.

16. My right knee was my worse, I damaged it whilst playing the game of marbles when I was about 7 or 8 at one of the local schools. I remember now, constantly bashing my knee with the bag of marbles

17. I remember an occasion in Treloar and we had just had dinner around 12 o'clock on our regular tables. Prayers were said. I was 13 or 14 years old

at the time (I left when I was fifteen and a half). There was a tap on the glass to get our attention and Dr Wassif came to the centre of the room and said, can all haemophiliacs go to such and such a classroom. This is how I remember being told I had been infected.

18. I had to go to classroom 2A. There were about ten or eleven of us in this particular age band. The nurse and Dr Wassif came in and said have you all got a pen and paper. He then told me personally, if you have such and such a batch number, and he read the numbers out. He said you have permission from the headmaster and I need you all now to use the public phone outside our dormitory's office and ask your parents to check if they have that batch number at home. Not to use it but to return it to your hospital. That batch number that was read out was at home, we had got it from Southampton General. Dr Wassif then left the room. I remember getting off the seat walking down to our dorms and we were all lined up in a row outside our dormitory to see our dorm master, Mr Eggins. He knew why we were there.

19. I rang home and learned that I had one of the batch numbers at home. I spoke to my Dad. They didn't tell us why we had to check these batch numbers. It was a long time ago but looking back, the first part I can actually remember. I left college and went to my hospital to see Dr Chisum. She knew my brother and me as we had being seeing her for years.

20. I can remember in 1985 I went and saw her and she changed her tune as I think she knew there was a crisis as she wasn't laughing anymore. She knew all of us but her demeanour had changed to a more serious one. I think she knew and it was as if she was thinking you don't realise what has happened.

21. Tony and I learnt at the same time about the batch numbers. Looking back they had hammered us with bad batches.

22. I remember Mum and Dad sitting me down in the front room and saying you've been infected with HIV since 1982. This was around 1986. It came through in a letter to my Mum and Dad from Southampton General. They received nothing from Treloar, ever. We were told via a letter from the hospital despite going there regularly, they never told us face to face.

23. I have been asked whether I have any tattoo's and can confirm I do not, but I do have an ear piercing.

Section 3. Other Infections

24. I do not think I have received any other infections other than Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV as a result of being given infected blood products.

Section 4. Consent

25. I have been asked if I was ever treated or tested without my consent. I gave consent to the medication but at Lord Mayor Treloar I refused to have prophylactics. I was not given medication against my wishes as far as I know.

Section 5. Impact

26. The only time it hit home was when Renee fell pregnant and Dr Chisum would say that it was 50/50 whether she and the child might get it. So when she fell pregnant GRO-C I remember It had "infectious diseased" on the front of her folder with a big yellow sticker. Renee GRO-C . Kerry is our first child. They put Renee in a room on her own when she gave birth.

27. My parents asked me if I really knew what was going on. Slowly we started to put things together. The knowledge started to come about but nobody was giving us any information. Someone was passing it onto us, maybe the doctor was paying a visit, but it was my mum who told us.

28. On Christmas Eve in 2005 at around 8 O'clock, my Dad rang me and said, "Tony is not well, I can't tell you a lot but think he might have had a mini stroke." He said we needed to go to Epsom General Hospital. Tony passed away GRO-C . On our way to the hospital we went via Alton, there was a field with no trees around and at 1 minute past one a storm of leaves blew around the car. When we got to the hospital they told us he had died at one minute past one. They said he had a mild stroke but personally I think it was a build-up. Tony had haemophilia and HIV but he never developed aids. He wouldn't talk about it.

29. People have told me I walk with a limp, and I tell them I am a haemophiliac and I was infected in 1982. Tony was different it was all in his head, he had too much in his head and he didn't talk about it at all. He has been dead for 13 years now.

30. Lizzy, a friend I met many years ago through Jan (my second wife), invited me for tea. Her boyfriend had old Cortina's and Capri cars. I had a lovely day but I later heard that and he thrown away everything I had touched that day.

31. My Dad, who I miss for lots of reasons, worked on heavy plant and he took all three of us boys to work to ride on the old diggers and lorries back in the '70's and 80's. At one firm we knew all the bosses and I used to drive all the vehicles when I was about seven or eight. My Dad was also a bus driver. He was at one particular company for nine years. He came home very different one day. We were young in the early '80s and we were still at Lord Mayor Treloar College. He had been called in to see GRO-D who was his boss. GRO-D told him that a few members of staff didn't like him bringing two of his boys in, Tony and me. The word HIV had come out and the office staff didn't want us to go there anymore. GRO-D was one of my Dad's bosses, he knew us by name and I haven't seen him for over 35 years. I found out that he recently retired but I would have liked to have gone and seen him and told him what I thought about my Dad not being

able to take us to his work. It's now and then things like that get in my head.

32. My father immediately made his mind up. He said, "If you think I am going to put them at the end of the garden and lock them in a cage you've got another thing coming. Here's my resignation." So he resigned and went back on the buses.

33. I have been asked how it made me feel but I can't remember because I was quite young. I remember in the early 80's I used to meet him for a cup of tea and I knew half of the drivers so it was a good thing. However, I have found out over the years that some people had said that they didn't want me there anymore

34. My Mum was there for us, all of us and she had her own complications. She has GRO-C My parents went through hell and I know my brother, Barry worries about me. He has become GRO-C

35. Christopher, my step-son, saw a Panorama documentary on television and he was on his phone at the time but every now and then he looked up. He is twenty-four. It opened his eyes watching that Panorama program. He would ask me, is that how you are and is that what really happened? I told him that was how we got infected. I think it hit home. He knows now, Kerry my daughter and Mitchell my son also know. There is a special bond between Mitchell, Kerry and me.

36. I have been asked about the impact my infection had on my partner Renee and how HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C affected our relationship and the impact on me of having to tell her. Renee went through hell and back in the 1980s. Looking back it was harder for me to tell Jan, my second wife, because I was having to tell a complete stranger when we first met. It was through a mutual friend that I met but Jan and had never known her before that, whereas I had known Renee previously.

37. I remember that night when I told Jan, it was over dinner. It was difficult telling somebody new. She said, "Let's talk about you." I started by telling her about my daughter and then I said have you heard of haemophilia and she said yes, it's about clotting blood, it threw me a bit. I also asked her if she knew about HIV being affected through the Factor VIII.

38. She asked if I was well and she told me that I looked well apart from my knee. She then told me she had a confession to make and that she already knew about my infection through mutual friend. I realised she was testing me to see if I was going to tell her about my infection.

39. A few friends and family were a bit sceptical when Renee got pregnant. They had reservations about the pregnancy bit because they were worried Renee might catch HIV.

40. I met a girl called Lorraine when I was 16 when I had just left college. All of a sudden her mum and dad wanted to meet us as we got on well and we were getting close and then the AIDS adverts came on the television and her parents said I think it's better guys if you two call it a day.

41. I was gutted, I might have even cried, my parents said there was nothing we can do Gary if that's the way the family feel.

42. I have met her (Lorraine) since when I went to a steam fair on my own. It was something we used to do when Kerry, our daughter was young. I went on my own walking around thinking back when my father and I had camped in every field and in the distance I saw these people. It was Lorraine and her mum and dad. I must have been in my forties, it was about 10 or 11 years ago. As we walked around together I was thinking what could have been, her finger touched my finger, her mum noticed and her mum said, telling us to separate had been the biggest mistake of her life. Everybody bounces back. I had bad news about my dad but I bounced back.

43. I have been asked about the effects on my family, my partner and my children. Renee has worried about me over the years even though we divorced I still used to meet up with her. In terms of the effect it has had on my relationship with my children, my son Mitchell doesn't say a lot but he thinks a lot. Kerry worried and still does and especially when she had her baby. I often use the expression, "that's if I am still here." Who knows if it will be one, two or four years and they say to me, "don't think like that." I have I said it more recently because I am fifty now and because a lot of my friends from college have gone. I have always been the skinny one but I am putting on weight now.

44. My parents went through hell and I know my brother worries about me. He has become GRO-C

45. When the hepatitis C came out a few years back there was one treatment that has always bugged me and been a problem for my liver. I can't remember the name of it but it was an injection in my stomach.

46. When I found out I had hepatitis I blanked it. It was just a bit more to go with the virus. I didn't have any mental effects but I hate being at home doing nothing.

47. I got a letter from Southampton General. There was a big meeting where they said they would like to try me on this drug that should make my virus disappear in twelve months. Tony had been on it six months before me. That was the biggest fear of my life so far, having to hold this needle and stick it in my stomach. I can do a butterfly in the vain no problem. I must have been about 3 months into it and Tony was just finishing. About a month went past, I was in the garage and the phone went and it was my main nurse Jo. She asked me how I was and I told her I had lost my brother on Christmas day and that my father had cancer. She said I've got bad news for you as the stuff you are on isn't working and you need

to stop taking it. I think Tony had just finished it and he is not here and I stopped and I am. It makes you think.

48. It worked for him, in so far as his hepatitis C was untraceable but it didn't work for me and I was five months behind him.

49. I have been asked if any tablets worked for hepatitis C. I started tablets at the end of 2016 and finished them at the end of May 2017. I was on them for the 6 months but I was told I couldn't drink excessively and I didn't drink at all. I am not a drinker but they said I could have the odd one.

50. I am now clear of Hepatitis C. Whilst taking the tablets I was quite depressed and I was ready to give up Renee. We were arguing over Renee's daughter and we don't normally argue. I became inward and laid back, I was really laid back. Renee said it was the tablets. I was really low and I kept crying. I said Renee should leave and I would help her get a flat. Her reactions was, if you think I have waited for you for nineteen years to walk out the door. We don't fall out, we have had may be three arguments over the years about Renee's daughter. It was the tablets that made me feel like that.

51. When I had my knee operation I had a line-feed into my neck, I looked like predator but it meant my veins were safe. On one occasion one of the nurses treating me said, "You could tell some stories Mr Bennett. That happened twice with nurses. I see it when they read my file and they don't expect you to still be around. I am forty nine nearly fifty and still here.

52. The physical effect hasn't stopped me. I have lost so many friends and my brother Tony to it that it makes me more determined. Everyone I met at college, I believe there were one thousand and forty nine haemophiliacs infected and we are down to just under two hundred. All those infected in general, all the ones I knew from Treloars have passed away. I knew them by name and face and there were easily eighty of them.

53. Back in the 1980s on the news there was a photo which started small and got enlarged and I knew 4 of them. I think I must be one of the last ones. This was mentioned again on the news last year.

54. In 2006 I had a normal routine appointment at the Genito Urinary (GU) clinic at the Royal Southampton hospital. My Dad was at an appointment the same day upstairs. After his appointment he told me that he had full blown cancer. He could never get his head around the fact that he buried his son Tony. He was in so much pain at the funeral, he was very ill and he couldn't stand anymore. Dad was telling everyone he had no hope at all. He died in GRO-C 2006 and my life just went.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

55. I have been asked about the treatment I received at LMT for my haemophilia. They gave me Factor VIII straight away if for example I had an elbow bleed they would give you prophylaxis, you will hear this word a lot. It's Factor VIII and sometimes this could be twice a day or twice a week but I have disagreed with it because it hammers my veins. They would put you on it to try and calm it down. They told us it was prophylaxis Factor VIII and they would give it even though I didn't want it. I used to argue with the doctor and say that I didn't want it.

56. I have been asked if I face difficulties or obstacles in obtaining treatment, care and support in consequence of being infected with HIV/HCV/HBV. For HIV they were offering me nothing at all. I have been on tablets for the last twenty years. I just wanted to be a normal bloke, but, 'bang,' you are infected with HIV. I just went a little 'laid back'. I enjoyed my Dad and my brothers' company. My Dad was old-school, he liked cars so we used to go off together.

57. I have also been asked what care and support I received. I was not given enough information about potential risks at that stage. When I learnt I had HIV there was little information to help myself. I didn't really understand it and when I told Renee she didn't understand it either.

58. There was more on the television about people dying of AIDS. I remember that advert with the word AIDS and tumbling rocks. Ian Dury was in the background when it all comes tumbling down. The whole thing was synonymous with death and AIDS being linked to HIV.

59. I've got something in this house from parliament, a book saying they had given us that muck 6 years before they recalled it. I got it at one of my meetings but I can't find it at the moment. I will look for it and let you know.

60. I was later diagnosed with Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. I was with Jan (my second wife) at the time.

61. For the hepatitis B a letter came through the post in 1995. I was told I had it by letter. It said, "Sadly I need to inform you that you have Hepatitis B." I found out a little time after that I had hepatitis C, again through a letter, it was along the same lines. I've asked over the years and I've been told that my liver is knackered, apparently it's like a cauliflower.

62. I have never been told by a doctor and no-one has ever made an appointment to see me privately.

63. I wasn't treated for HIV at first, then, they gave me treatment. I ended up on tablets because I was feeling tired. At the time I used to ask others to drive, as I was so tired and I'd be asleep in the passenger seat. I felt so tired and it was not long after that, after a period of 3-4 months of feeling tired. Jan noticed I kept falling asleep and told me to go to hospital to see someone because I was so tired. I've only been on my tablets fifteen to sixteen years. I went to Southampton General, they realised certain levels of my HIV virus was not doing too well and that's when I started on

medication. I had been home a few times and fallen asleep on the sofa and was falling asleep because my body was shutting down.

64. I can't remember the name of the tablets. I was on quite a few at the beginning for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV and I think things were going wrong.

65. They had no major effect in the beginning, more experimental as they needed to find the right balance. The very first one was like eating chalk. I had to put the powder in water, it would make me sick. I would take it and then I would be sick. I can't remember any of the others.

66. I never had difficulty in getting treatments and I am not aware of any treatment that I should have been offered but have not been given. I have met people younger than me, half my age and they have no teeth because they were put on radiation. It didn't cure the virus but it killed their teeth.

67. I have been lucky in regard to dental treatment. We have got a special unit for diseases and my dentist is in the hospital. They have provided my dental care for over 19 years. I've changed hospitals but they have referred me to the same hospital dentist. If I need an injection, they give me the injection but I don't take Factor VIII.

68. In terms of my medical treatment generally I had Dr Varney, but he has retired and we had Dr Adams but I never saw him in nine years. I have Dr Birch now.

69. One time when we were in Uttoxeter visiting friends, I got scared as I was feeling so bad. We left and Jan drove us home. I didn't feel well at all. We stayed in the house, the next morning we were driving to South Wales in the caravan but I didn't feel well enough to drive. It turned out I wasn't at all right. We got to the caravan. I remember being fully dressed under the quilt for 2 days and eating little amounts. New things were going wrong and I was passing blood and I had a patchy beard, I had blood coming out

of my tear ducts and I was coughing and wheezing. I said we need to go home and we stayed at home for two weeks and then I went into hospital. I saw Jo (the nurse) and told her how ill I had been. She said you sound chesty and referred me to Mark Wright – a liver consultant. He checked my front and back and listened. He said, "Gary, I don't know how to tell you this, you have just bought yourself through the first stages of pneumonia. Are you alright?" I told him I was rough and he said that my body had started to shut down and he said you must come back if that happens again.

70. Regarding support, I think it has been there but I have never picked up on it. I never asked for help or support.

71. When I was with Renee I bought a new house, I was living in GRO-C down the road but it didn't work out. I went back to Mum and Dads. Kerry, our daughter was with Renee. I went home to my Mum and Dads, the matter of the separation from Renee went to court and the outcome was that if I GRO-C We remained friends.

72. In 1993-94 I sold the house and Renee GRO-C I had sold the house cheaply. My Dad went to the local Doctors and he told them I needed help. He gave me a number. I felt low in myself. I was feeling down when I got introduced to Richard Money who was a Social Worker. He was awesome. He helped me get out of my depression. He rang me and said don't dress up we are going out, we went to the pub and he said we can talk. He got me the house we currently reside in.

73. The house is built for a disabled person. I had a number for somebody else when Richard left. I listened to him over the phone and I never rang him back. Richard helped me get a flat before I moved here. They were on the phone when I needed them.

74. In terms of support through the Macfarlane Trust, I got newsletters now and then. I saw a newsletter about a meeting once and Jan and Kerry

encouraged me to go. They got in touch with GRO-A who was running it and told him I needed a boost as I had lost my father and brother. They invited me to an event.

75. The Haemophilia Society and Macfarlane Trust held meetings, I used to go away with them once a year. I went on three such trips. They were all over the country over the weekends where all haemophiliacs got together. It was something to do with Tainted Blood. We had massages from an outside company and we could take partners. I took Kerry.

76. I have been asked about other physical effects other than the excessive tiredness. I give Southampton General their dues, if there is something that's not right they want to see me, but I don't generally go. I will tell them straight. I've been going to the General for forty odd years. I tell them if I'm not well they'll see me. Some people are always at the hospital. We are told that if we have diarrhoea for a month we should get up to the hospital. If the grandchildren have got full blown colds I am a bit wary of that. I push my luck sometimes with the colds but generally I'm fairly good.

77. I was asked to go for blood tests over a month ago, but I had a bit of a dispute with the last blood test they took. I swear they don't know how to give haemophiliacs blood tests. I had one recently and she did something wrong and I was bruised all down my arm.

78. Since being diagnosed with Hepatitis C I have regular blood tests. Over the years, since being on tablets, they have noticed my levels fluctuate and they go up and down.

79. I've been a bit of a bugger and I've said to them when I am ill 'crawling on my arse', that's when you'll see me at the hospital. I go if I have to. My children worry about me and tell me to go. What I find depressing is running between two hospitals and not one of them can give me a blood test without giving me a bleed.

80. When it all kicked off my brother told me to change hospitals and go to St Thomas's but I didn't.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

81. I have been asked what, if any financial assistance I received from any of the Trusts and Funds set up to distribute payments?

82. In 1989 I got the first financial payment that I can remember. A letter came through from the government when they offered Twenty thousand pounds, I describe it as 'shut up money'. We were asked to go to London and it was the solicitor who fought for the Zeebruge ferry disaster. My brother and I went in to a big old room where we told, you can either, sign this bit of paper and take twenty thousand pounds here and now, or you can fight on for the rest of your life.

83. That is what I was told that day in that room, with my parents saying what they are saying is you either take the money or fight on. This was in about 1989 when I was about twenty and Tony was about fifteen-sixteen. There were two envelopes on the table, one for my brother and one for me. They said if you sign that you get twenty thousand pounds, otherwise nothing

84. We were young. Our parents would struggle with money so we would buy them things. We bought new furniture for the house. We moved out of Mum and Dad's and rented a house in GRO-C. We were given a flat at GRO-C through a housing association. We bought new furniture out of the £20,000and cars.

85. So in about 1990 after we bought the house with my sixty thousand, which was the second payment. We were living in GRO-C when we got the second lot. We were told in a letter that there was a possibility of

another lot of money. I got sixty thousand pounds because I was married, Tony got forty thousand pounds.

86. It was to try and make our life better. There were no conditions attached to the sixty thousand pound payment. It came out of the blue. I was a bit more sensible and thought ahead about if anything happened to me, Renee and Kerry would be ok.

87. There was another payment, roughly around 2004 when I was on my honeymoon with Jan. We got married in 2004 and were on holiday on the Norfolk Broads and we had a mobile phone. My Dad called to say there was a letter headed from either the Government, the Haemophilia Society or the Macfarlane trust saying we would like to offer you another twenty five thousand pounds. I think it stemmed back to the Government. So when we came back from our honeymoon I put the cheque in the bank. There were no conditions attached as far as I recall.

88. There was one more recent one whilst I was with Renee which was to do with the Hepatitis C. There were rumours going around about Skipton. I rang GRO-A and he asked if I had Hepatitis B and C and he said I might be eligible for another pay out. I filled in some forms from the Macfarlane team with Shane and Nick, they were awesome. I miss our meetings. We filled the form out two years ago and we had a cheque in the post for fifty thousand pounds in 2016.

89. I got monthly cheques from what was Macfarlane but it has changed now. I've have been getting these for about ten years now. I get £1500 now but it was smaller than that originally.

90. I have been getting the same amount as MacFarlane from Skipton since 2016. It is all the same company now, Macfarlane and Skipton merged but they come separately as two separate cheques. I have to fill in a declaration form each year.

91. The question I would like to ask is "What price do you put on your life?" I consider I am one of the lucky ones.

92. Mum and Dad joined the haemophilia society in 1980s and 90s. I don't belong to anything else. In the early days somebody from Tainted Blood set up a website, it was associated with the Haemophilia Society. We got newsletters and we used to meet up. I miss having the meetings. They used to take us on outings.

Section 8. Other Issues

93. I have to go to two hospitals due to funding cuts and I often end up at the wrong hospital.

94. I have a GRO-A with haemophilia who lives in GRO-A his name is GRO-A

95. My brother Tony left a partner and 3 year old son who is now 16 years old.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 1/5/2019