

Witness Name: John James Lister

Statement No.: WITN1350002

Exhibits: NONE

Dated: March 2025

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JOHN JAMES LISTER

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 21 March 2025.

I, John James Lister, will say as follows:

1. After the emotional and traumatic experience of May 20th 2024, I felt for the first time, a sense of relief and vindication that what I, and others, had been subjected to over decades, had finally been recognised. The following day I was very quickly brought back down seeing the disgraceful amounts of compensation being offered to Hepatitis sufferers like myself, especially in comparison with the amounts laid out for those infected with HIV. It was such an insult to see what the government believes my ruined life was worth and realise the fight would have to continue.
2. There was some small consolation when it was stated that those of us receiving Special Category Mechanism would be awarded additional compensation for the hideous, life changing and life limiting conditions caused by the Hepatitis infection/s and/or the treatments for these infections. This

has now been cruelly snatched away by the government in what is nothing more than a money saving exercise at the expense of those already harmed so much at the hands of this and previous governments. Just one of those conditions caused by my infection is severe IBS, for which I have been hospitalised numerous times. This is separate to the symptoms of my Hepatitis B & C infections. Despite there being a proven link between Hepatitis and IBS which was evidenced in the final report, this has been conveniently overlooked by the government in yet another claw back exercise.

3. As a Haemophiliac, I was repeatedly, and at times unnecessarily, treated with infected blood and blood products. Evidence was uncovered and submitted which proved what I have long expected; that I was a subject of unethical research. My local hospital was found to have taken part in research/ trials during the years I was treated there. Yet this has been discarded by the government which again adds to the feelings of injustice and layers of hurt.
4. In the past 12 months, I have been told I have cirrhosis of the liver and then told I do not have it...2 or 3 times. My scans have all been inconclusive but I have been told by my consultant and liver team to live 'as though I do have cirrhosis'. I have however been told that I do not qualify as having cirrhosis for the purposes of claiming my compensation. So, I live with this over my head on a daily basis, yet I will not be compensated for this decline in my health.
5. Just last year during one of my A&E admissions for my IBS, a registrar came to see me and spoke to my daughter. During this conversation, he referenced my 'known' Hepatitis B & C. I have never been made aware that I had been Hep B positive, and we initially thought this to be a mistake. My daughter contacted my consultant haematologist who confirmed this was a mistake. A few weeks later, he contacted us again to say it hadn't been a mistake and that after looking through my bloodwork, I did in fact have antibodies to Hep B which meant that I had been infected previously, and self-cleared. I was completely rocked by this revelation. It had taken years to rebuild any kind of trust in the NHS and professionals who were treating me and to say this set

me back would be a huge understatement. After going back through my medical notes, it appears I was infected with Hep B and self-cleared it at least twice for it to then reactivate. So during my very worst years of health, I was dealing with not one but two Hepatitis viruses.

6. The possibility of being able to claim 'supplementary' losses on the scheme was a welcome one but since further regulations have been published, it is clear that it has been made nearly impossible to do so fairly. I once ran a successful business and owned a large family home, which I lost as a result of my illness progressing and health deteriorating. I have attempted to get my tax records to prove my high earnings but obviously, as it was over 30 years ago, I've been unable to do so. Who on earth keeps tax records from over 30 years ago when you have since been declared bankrupt and lost your home? The government/IBCA know this and are fully aware that it will be nearly impossible for people to prove their earnings given the delay CAUSED BY THE GOVERNMENTS FAILURE TO ADDRESS THIS SCANDAL IN A TIMELY MANNER.
7. As explained in my original statement, I have suffered decades of mental health issues as a result of my infections and ill health. Shortly after I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C, I tried to take my own life. I had recently lost my business and my home due to my health problems and inability to work and the diagnosis was just too much to process. I came very close to succeeding, I had to be resuscitated twice, caused a severe bleed in my stomach and was in hospital for 2 months. During this time, I did not have regular consultations with a Consultant Psychiatrist nor was I sectioned. I have hundreds of references in my medical notes to depression and anxiety over decades yet none of this will be taken into account for the purposes of supplementary compensation due to the completely unrealistic regulations set by IBCA.
8. One of the worst times of my life was during my Interferon treatment for Hepatitis C. I do not need to go into detail about the effects of this treatment as it is well documented in the inquiry evidence and report but I wanted to

document my disbelief and disappointment that this additional suffering is not being recognised in the compensation.

9. The Inquiry clearly proved that there was a national cover up with thousands of infected people's medical notes destroyed. My records are missing vital years from 1978 – 1990. During this time there would have been damning evidence regarding my infection, unethical testing and my diagnosis being kept from me. As such, the inquiry recommended that the burden of proof should not be on the infected victims as most have had their records illegally destroyed. This has not been taken on board by the IBCA and Hepatitis victims are having the burden of proof put back on them, completely unfairly.

10. I am 76 years old. I was infected at age 17, at the beginning of my adult life. My whole life has been blighted by my infections and my health is rapidly deteriorating. I live in real fear that I will not live to see my compensation. The IBCA is not only not fit for purpose, but it is taking a totally unacceptable length of time to implement. All infected victims should have been paid by ~~the then~~ end of 2024 and now we are being told that 'most' infected victims will be paid by the end of 2027! This is terrifying and heartbreaking and is dragging out the pain and trauma for an already broken community.

11. I have spent most of the last 3 years in very poor health and with regular hospital admissions relating to issues I believe have been caused by my infections and subsequent treatments. None of this will be recognised due to the incredibly rare conditions listed in the supplementary health regulations, with the lone exception of my Peripheral Neuropathy. I even doubt this will be accepted, such NOT RELEVANT is my lack of faith.

12. Our legal teams have been not only fighting on our behalf for many years, but they have been a source of guidance and support throughout the inquiry. This past year has been the toughest mentally for myself and my family since my diagnosis. We are trying to navigate this very difficult time and understand the incredibly complex process involved in the compensation scheme without adequate training or knowledge. Our legal support has been ripped away

from us and we are having to make sense of the situation alone at a crucial time.

13. In summary, rather than being able to move on with my life since the end of the Inquiry and enjoy what time I have left, I have spent another year suffering and reliving the great injustice, sadness, anger and feelings of being unheard all over again. There has been no meaningful interaction with the infected community from the IBCA and all of our attempts to engage have fallen on deaf ears. My mental health is as fragile as ever and I feel traumatised and completely broken by the ineffectiveness and discriminatory compensation scheme. This scheme was supposed to be set up in a timely manner to pay fair compensation to go some way to providing justice to a community who have been let down over decades. Instead, this farce of a compensation scheme is compounding the wrongs that have been done to me and others over the past 50 years. It is beyond cruel and it needs to be addressed urgently.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

23-03-2025