

Witness Name: Thomas Hanley

Statement No.: WITN2298001

Exhibits: **WITN2298002**

Dated: Tuesday 4th December 2018

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THOMAS HANLEY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated Tuesday 5th December 2018.

I, Thomas Hanley, will say as follows:

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Thomas Hanley. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1951. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am Robert Henry Hanley's executor and brother. I intend to speak about Robert's infection of hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment he received and the impact it had on him and our lives together as a family.

Section 2. How Affected

2. Robert was infected with hepatitis C after receiving a blood transfusion in 1984, due to an accident that occurred at Robert's work resulting in serious burns. He was diagnosed in the 1990s at some point, I am unclear of when, underwent treatment to clear the virus and ultimately was found deceased in his home on the 27th March 2013.
3. Robert had no prior condition. He received a transfusion as a result of an industrial accident. He worked at the Clyde, Motherwell in the steel industry. He suffered severe burns in the course of his occupation to his lower legs and he was admitted to Law Hospital in Wishaw. I don't know too much about the details of what happened. This was in 1984.
4. Robert received a whole blood transfusion. I do not know how much blood he received. This information will be contained in his medical records.
5. Robert was treated in Law Hospital Wishaw in 1984 in the summer. He was later treated in Monklands Hospital Glasgow and the new Wishaw General Hospital for the hepatitis and I believe he developed diabetes. I am unclear on the timeline of when he attended which hospital for treatment. Further information about his treatment will be contained within his medical records I do not know which General Practitioner he was registered with.
6. Robert received the transfusion in 1984. I do not know which month it was and I have now discovered that Robert's medical records have been destroyed.

7. I'm not aware of any discussion that took place with Robert about the risk of being exposed to an infection as a result of receiving the transfusion.
8. As a result of the transfusion it later came out in the 1990s that Robert was infected with hepatitis C. I am unsure when in the 1990's he was diagnosed.
9. I am not aware of the full details as to how Robert became aware of the infection. Things came to light during his personal injury claim for the industrial accident in 1984. He made a claim through his union after the accident. I don't know which union he was registered with. At some point in this process when they were examining his medical records it came out that he was infected with hepatitis C. I don't know what happened with the industrial action other than it settled in Robert's favour and he received compensation.
10. Robert told me about the infection, I cannot recall when we had this conversation I just remember it was very upsetting. I got the impression that he knew this was a bad infection and it was an ongoing infection that was going to get worse.
11. I don't know if adequate information was provided to Robert to help understand and manage the infection
12. I can't answer the question about if information should have been provided earlier as Robert and I have never discussed this.
13. I have no views about how the results of the tests and information about the infection was communicated to Robert as Robert and I have never discussed this.

14. I don't know what information was given to Robert at the time he was infected, about the risks of others being infected.

Section 3. Other Infections

15. I am unaware of any further medical complications that occurred as a result of the infection. I believe there is a possibility that the diabetes he suffered from may be linked to the hepatitis C but details of this will be contained within his medical records.

Section 4. Consent

16. I can't answer the question if he was treated or tested without his knowledge as I don't know the answer.
17. I don't know if he was treated without his consent.
18. Robert was working and on continuous night shifts. He died on a Tuesday; he should have been at work. Between Wednesday and Friday there were two or three voicemails left on his phone from Robert's employer, despite the fact I had notified them of his death. These voicemails were repeatedly asking why he had not been at the allocated site for his security duty. Monklands Hospital only called once, asking why Robert had missed his last appointment. I took the call personally. I told the treatment nurse that he had died and he told me that he had been put on a new course of treatment that had only started one month prior. He said that a patient should not miss appointments because it was an important, progressive treatment. I remember him telling me this was a new treatment and the treatment doses were very aggressive. Dr Kennedy was responsible for this treatment. I looked at this treatment and I read the side-effects. It didn't look right to me that he was put on this medication. The side-effects said things like, do not take this medication if you are prone to heart problems or if you have problems with blood pressure. Robert had problems with both his blood pressure and heart.

So how could he have been given full information? Surely if they had told him and looked at his medical records properly, he would not have been put on this? The drug was called Telaprevir. Robert passed away on the 27th March 2013. I can't accept the idea that he took this new drug for the hepatitis after being given full information because the risks were so high for him.

19. I had a suspicion that he was tested for the purposes of research. In my mind it doesn't make sense that he was given a drug, a new drug when he had a bad heart and bad circulation when this is also listed as a side-effect and a risk of Telaprevir. When I cleared his house I took hold of all of the medicines there. There was a holdall of medication. There were a lot of prescriptions. I don't know full details. This will be information in his medical records but I am very suspicious about it all.

Section 5. Impact

20. I was aware that Robert continued to work even though he had hepatitis C and had ailing health. He also looked after his wife Helen who died in 2010. She had her own medical problems. Helen died of cirrhosis of the liver, she was a heavy drinker and that is what ultimately killed her. Robert never admitted to me that he was depressed but I do believe this was the case. He lost regular contact with myself and my older brother. In September 2012, our aunt died. Robert didn't come to the funeral; he didn't turn up. I was quite put out by this and angry that he had done this, so we didn't really speak too much after this. I did invite him to visit us at Christmas but he did not come. When I went to clear his house out, it became clear it was not just me he had stopped communicating with. He had loads of unopened mail that I found. He hadn't opened his mail for over a year. Within this mail there was a reprimand from his employer, a formal reprimand about his appearance. He was working in security at the

time he passed away and they had a formal uniform shirt and tie that he had to wear and he had not been wearing this uniform properly. There was quite a detailed report setting out this reprimand which I exhibit for the Inquiry as **WITN2298002**. In the last years of his life, he was moved to an unoccupied post. He was moved away from members of the public and moved away from employees. He was sent to a property that had no one else in it. He was completely isolated. He used to work for G4S security. He was working right up until the point he died.

21. Over the years Robert's eye sight deteriorated. There was a general sequence of deteriorating health over time. He developed diabetes and it was related to his liver. Full details will be contained within his medical records.
22. Robert had been out of touch with me for many months and we didn't know what had happened to him. The last time I spoke with him, he declined an invitation to Christmas. He passed away from pneumonia and heart disease. He was discovered dead in his property by a neighbour. The neighbour got the police who found his body. A post mortem was then conducted due to the amount of medication found in his house. I have provided a copy of his post-mortem to Thompsons solicitors to submit to the Inquiry. I don't understand the details of this post-mortem as it is in detailed medical language.
23. Robert underwent various treatments to attempt to cure his hepatitis C. He was being treated at the new Monklands Hospital, Airdrie. The only drug I am aware of is the drug he was on when he died, Telaprevir. Other treatments, if relevant, will be contained within his medical records.
24. I've never been given the impression that there were any difficulties and obstacles in Robert accessing treatments.
25. I'm not aware of any treatments that Robert ought to have had.

26. I believe Robert's general demeanour was quite quiet. He was quite a keen bowler and in his last year of his life, I found out later that he completely stopped playing bowling. In September 2012 he did not turn up to my aunt's funeral and he fell out of contact with the family. The last time I was in Robert's house before he died, his house was immaculate, that was about a year before he died. When I cleared out the property, it was clear he had been existing in his living room chair. I can only describe the house as being an absolute pigsty. He was not cleaning his house, he was not opening the mail, I think he was living in his work uniform. He was living on convenience foods as well. I cannot express how dirty his house had become.
27. I don't know if his infected status impacted upon treatment for any other conditions.
28. When Helen died in 2010 Robert did seem to cope. He was very quiet, but there is evidence in the last year of his life, things took a very big down turn. I do believe this was the year when he was on treatment for the hepatitis C. I realise how serious it was, something must have happened. Because I'd fallen out of contact with him I'm not aware of the final days of what was going on for him. All I can see is the evidence I describe above after he passed away and the state of his house.
29. When Robert passed away and I became his executor. I went through all of his documents as required and I found this incredibly upsetting because I felt like I was invading his life. The money that I found was related to his compensation for his industrial accident. Other than this, his bank account was really empty, it was just his monthly salary that was going in and out of his bank account. Robert worked in the steel industry until 1992 when he was made redundant. After this, he worked for the rest of his life as a security guard.

30. There were no work related effects on myself from Robert's infection.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

31. I don't know about any difficulties or obstacles Robert faced in obtaining treatment care and support in consequence of being infected. I don't think this was likely. I cannot say if Robert was ever offered psychological support I do believe he was depressed though.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

32. Robert never received any support or assistance from any of the trust and fund set up he only received compensation from the industrial accident.

33. Robert did not apply for financial assistance so this does not apply to him.

34. Robert did not apply for financial assistance so this does not apply to him.

35. Robert did not apply for financial assistance so this does not apply to him.

36. Robert did not apply for financial assistance so this does not apply to him.

37. I have no further comments to make about the amount of financial assistance.

Section 8. Other Issues

38. I provided Thompsons with Robert's post mortem and medical mandates so they can retrieve his medical records. The hospitals that he was treated at, Wishaw General Hospital, Monklands Hospital and Hairmyres Hospital have all advised that they have destroyed the records in line with their retention policies. I find this disgraceful and upsetting. Robert was put through a horrific experience at no fault of his own, with no proper advice and now there is no record that this even occurred. There should be an accountable record of what he was put through.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed 
Tom Hanley (Jun 23, 2020 19:46 GMT+1)

Jun 23, 2020

Dated