

Witness Name: Timothy Grindley

Statement No: WITN2471001

Dated: 17 December 2018

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MR TIMOTHY GRINDLEY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12 December 2018. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, Timothy Grindley, will say as follows:-

1. **Introduction**

1. My name is Timothy Grindley. I am 39 years old. I have been married for three and a half years and I have a four-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son. I have worked in the financial services industry for 20 years. I left school after studying for A-levels and I have worked full time ever since. I bought a house with my wife in 2014.

2. My Dad, John Wellham Grindley, was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C through contaminated blood and he died of AIDS in 1994.

2 How Infected

1. Dad was born in 1952 and diagnosed with Haemophilia A when he was a small child aged around 3 years.
2. As I understand it, Dad was one of the first Haemophiliacs to use Factor VIII.
3. Dad was informed that he had HIV in November 1986. It appears from his notes that he had HIV as early as 1981 but wasn't told.
4. Dad died when I was 14 years old so my memory of his medical conditions is limited to what I recall being told.
5. My Mum, Mary Grindley, will provide further information about how Dad became infected in her witness statement to the Inquiry. For ease of reference her Witness Number is WITN2336.

3 Other infections

1. My Mum, Mary Grindley, will provide this information in her witness statement to the Inquiry.

4 Consent

1. My Mum, Mary Grindley, will provide this information in her witness statement to the Inquiry.

5 **Impact**

1. I remember from a young age that I was aware of how haemophilia affected what my Dad was able to do. I believe that it had a significant impact on our relationship. As a kid, he couldn't help me ride my bike or kick a ball around because of his condition. Because of that, Mum was naturally protective around Dad and around me too. It was challenging at times to be outgoing and socially interactive with my peer group when I had been quite protected and reserved at home.
2. I don't really remember being told about Dad's condition or his infection. Around age 9 or 10 I knew there was something quite serious going on. I don't remember exactly when I was told about the infection with HIV. I just knew that he was really ill and I believe my parents probably tried to shield me as much as possible, gradually telling me what they needed to about the seriousness. However, it came to a point where it was impossible to hide. I saw Dad becoming very weak and his condition was up and down all the time. I can't be certain what age I was when it became terminal for Dad.
3. I remember mum engaged a social worker when I was around 13 years old He came to the house and took me out a few times into London to go bowling. I believe this was arranged to give me an outlet from the difficult environment at home and also to give my parents a break.
4. When I started secondary school aged 11, I believe that my confidence was compromised by the situation at home. It is hard enough to make the transition from primary to secondary school but if your home life is significantly different to the other children then this makes it even harder. I remember going to see my Dad in hospital on a Saturday morning which was something I found very hard to do. The only thing

that got me through it was knowing that I would be going to watch football in the afternoon which I found as an escape for me.

5. I eventually made friends and such good friends that they are still my friends to this day. I would, however, say that my outgoing nature was really affected. I recall trying to shy away from events and activities.
6. I remember Dad being transferred to a hospice called St Christopher's in Sydenham. I remember the place but I don't think I saw him there many times. At this point I was aware that his condition was very serious. In fact in the whole last year before he went to the hospice I knew that time was against him. He was extremely weak, but had the odd good day. That entire period of my life is extremely blurry. My memory seems to be clearer after Dad died.
7. I remember being taken in to see Dad for the last time. I wasn't a child then but I still could not really comprehend what was going on. Nothing can compare you for the loss of a parent even as an adult. After Dad died I spent a lot of time trying to block out my memory of what happened. This may have been due to denial initially. All of those memories are just a blur now. I think it was easier for me this way.
8. After Dad died, I recall that I was only off school for a few days. I believe it was a joint decision made with Mum for me to go back. I can't remember the precise gap between when Dad died and the funeral but I remember a lot of apprehension. I remember being really concerned about Mum. Watching what this did to her was as bad if not worse than the effect on me.
9. From then on, Mum and I took very different grieving paths. Mum was devastated, completely broken. She didn't know where to turn and couldn't cope. A couple of years later, she tried to go back to

work doing primary school supply teaching but didn't last very long as she wasn't able to cope.

10. Dad's death was a huge drain on Mum more than anyone else. She had given up work look after Dad and dedicated everything to him so when he died she was lost and totally drained. I took a different path in terms of grieving and I was in a huge amount of denial. Almost an element of defiance which came out in my behaviour. I didn't completely go off the rails but I made different academic decisions and focused on what interested me to the expense of any other subject.
11. There was some deterioration in my behaviour after Dad died, partly because I wanted to be out of the house as much as possible. I was concerned for my mum but I found it extremely difficult to come home and face her. At 14, 15 and 16 I would be out of the house a lot with my friends hanging out and sometimes drinking. The consequences of my behaviour with school were not horrendous in that I wasn't detained or excluded but ultimately I did not achieve the results that I would have done had Dad not died. Dad's death definitely hit my academic achievement. As it turned out I got the results that I needed in the subjects that I liked, however, I definitely let the others fall by the wayside.
12. Around this time it was arranged for me to see a counsellor through the health service. As I was in a state of denial and defiance I didn't really benefit from the counselling back then. I didn't embrace it as it was not a comfortable situation for a teenager to be in.
13. I did my GCSEs and went on to do a GNVQ in business. When I left I decided not to go to university. I wanted financial independence. I don't think this decision was influenced by what happened with Dad but maybe on a subconscious level I wanted to be able to move out of the house.

14. Whilst I was still living with Mum it was very tough and our relationship was extremely strained. Looking back now I put that down to the different ways we had of dealing with the grieving process.
15. At age 18 all I wanted was to put what had happened out of my mind and make the best of the future but my Mum was in a different stage of life and was not ready to move on. She wanted to talk about what happened all the time but I didn't. I think I tried to shy away from talking about it as I found it easier not to.
16. This was an unpredictable time with Mum and she was very up and down. At one point she had to be prescribed medication to help her with her state of mind.
17. I feel like I tried to get on with my life and there was still an element of denial. Even now I feel like I never really let the situation out of the cage. I have always tried to push it to the back of my mind. I think this has had an affect on my psychology in that I have a lot of frustration issues. In my career I have frequently been told that the way that I let my frustration get the better of me has affected my career progression and promotion prospects. It's hard to know whether this frustration is a personality trait or a result of what I went through as a teenager.
18. In my early 20s I think that my social confidence was affected, particularly with meeting girls. I was lucky to have lots of friends but I was very insular and protective of my own feelings. Sometimes I would be scared to challenge myself socially.
19. I recall knowing fairly early on about infected blood. I was definitely aware at the time that dad died. It was a taboo subject back then because of the way the HIV virus was known to be transmitted. It was definitely something that we kept private.

20. None of my friends would have been aware of the circumstances behind Dad's death. I opened up to my closest friends about it around 10 years ago but not before. I felt like the matter was put in a box and closed. Keeping that kind of secret was difficult and Mum and I had to cover up a lot when I asked about Dad's illness. It was hard to shield and deflect questions about why he died. I feel that maybe it was the nature of Dad's illness that led to me being in such denial. I think that if Dad had died in a less secretive way then I may have been able to be more open about the way I felt about it.
21. In terms of trying to get justice for Dad, this campaign hasn't been huge for me directly but it has been a massive part of Mum's life and has therefore had a huge effect on me too. When I think about what happened it was clearly horrendous and there is a strong case to say it was entirely avoidable. An acknowledgement of error would be somewhat beneficial but will never change or rectify what happened.
22. I do feel quite strongly that it is only right that there is an acknowledgement of what me and my Mum have been through. My Mum has literally been dragged through hell.
23. I feel angry that as a consequence of my Dad being infected with HIV and HCV, I have been denied any brothers and sisters. I have two children now and I am amazed at the love that they have for each other. Obviously I can't say what it would be like to have a sibling but I would have really liked to experience that. In addition, my parents were denied the opportunity to have more than one child.
24. My memories of Dad being healthy are limited because I was so young. I do remember the times when he was able to do activities with me. I remember that we had a good relationship and he was always there for me when he could be. I remember cooking with him and he

was a great collector of stamps and phone cards. I think I may have inherited my interest in collecting from him. There was a stamp shop in Blackheath that I used to like to go to with him.

25. I remember I used to go with Dad to his mother's house on a Sunday morning and we would see his grandparents and his great uncle. They would always debate the current affairs of the day loudly and passionately.
26. I remember Dad's physical challenges making him extremely careful about knocks and bumps and scrapes. As a small child I was not allowed to jump onto him or hug him.
27. Despite him being restricted in these ways he was as good a Dad as anybody could ask for. Our relationship was as good as it could have been in the circumstances and I have nothing but fond memories of my Dad.
28. It is, however, hard to think of him without thinking about his illness. It is difficult to remember him as a happy healthy person because most of the time he was not.

6 Treatment/Care Support

1. My Mum, Mary Grindley, will provide this information in her witness statement to the Inquiry.

7 Financial Assistance

1. My Mum, Mary Grindley will be in a better position to provide information on the financial assistance, if any, my parents received.

2. However, I can comment on our family's financial situation insofar as it affected me. My parents were unable to obtain a mortgage due to Dad's infection with HIV and hepatitis C. This meant that we were unable to purchase our own home and instead we had no choice other than to live in social housing. Most of my childhood homes were housing association properties in areas considered poor, deprived and dangerous.
3. There was a social consequence to this for me. For instance, I would not go out and ride my bike outside the house where I lived as a child because it was considered to be a dangerous area.
4. Mum and Dad were very good at making sure I did not want for anything. They must have counted every penny as I was growing up but I never went without.

8 Other Issues

1. I have been very apprehensive about the Inquiry bringing all of this back up for me. I feel that I have come to terms with things to some extent now a lot of time has passed. However, I am concerned about taking the lid off the box and letting out the feelings that I have repressed about it over the years.
2. I am also extremely concerned about what the Inquiry process will do to my Mum. She won't ever get over what's happened. She just deals with it the best that she can. She has fought for so long for justice for Dad, and the price has been really high for her in terms of the stress it has caused. I just really hope this Inquiry brings that fight to a satisfactory conclusion.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed....

GRO-C

T. GRINDLEY 01.02.19