

Witness Name: Edward Paddon  
Statement No.: WITN3275001  
Exhibits: WITN3275002  
Dated: 16 September 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF EDWARD PADDON

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 19 May 2019.

I, Edward Paddon, will say as follows:

1. My name is Edward Paddon. I was born on GRO-C 1942. I live in Gloucestershire.
2. I wish to provide a statement about my experience as a blood donor, which I believe is relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. I have not been infected by blood or blood products. I have not been directly affected by my experience of anyone having been infected by blood or blood products.
3. The events in this statement about happened many years ago. As a result, my memory has faded and I have difficulty recalling specific details. Primarily, I am not able to remember the names of the people involved.
4. I was a blood donor for many years. I started donating blood in 1965 in Hendon, where I worked for Remploy. This was a temporary blood donation centre, which was accommodated by the Welsh Harp pub. At the time, I was donating once a year.

5. In 1974, I moved jobs and started working for the John Lewis Partnership. I asked the company if there were any blood donation centres in the local area. They directed me to the West End Blood Donation centre on Margaret Street in Central London. I started to donate from this centre, which was about a 5 – 10 minute walk from my new office.
6. From this point, I donated blood twice a year. I understand that at permanent centres, such as the West End Blood Donation Centre, donors were asked to donate twice a year. At temporary blood donation centres, such as the donation centre at the Welsh Harp pub, donors were asked to donate once a year.
7. When I donated at the West End Blood Donation Centre, I was seen by different nurses each time. Whilst I visited the centre many times over the years, to the best of my recollection I cannot remember the names of any of the nurses I saw. I am not able to describe the staff nor are there any distinguishing marks or features that I am able to recall which may assist in any potential identification. I cannot remember whether I built up a friendly relationship with any of them.
8. In 1975, when I was donating blood at the West End Blood Donation Centre, one of the nurses asked me to donate blood more frequently. She asked me to double my donations, which would mean donating four times a year. I said that I was happy to do whatever I could, but I questioned her why these extra donations were needed. The nurse stated that a couple of the local hospitals had received imported blood, which had been tested and found to be infected. As a result, the hospitals were reluctant to use it, and they needed to cover the shortfall with regular donations.
9. The nurse cautioned me that she was not supposed to tell me this information. I could tell by her tone that she was nervous that she would lose her job if it was found out that she relayed the information. I

got the impression that this message had come from higher up in the organisation.

10. The nurse did not mention which hospital, but I assumed one of them was University College Hospital as it was within spitting distance of the blood donation centre, and was a research hospital. I did not know the scale of the problem; whether it was affecting only a few local hospitals or if it was larger.
11. I wanted to help, not appreciating at the time that the crisis that was going to develop, so I agreed to donate more blood. I started donating blood up to four times a year from that point. As I travelled for work, I was not always able to donate as much as I would have liked to.
12. I do not recall having any further conversations with this nurse, any other nurse or any medical professional about the blood supply being infected when I was giving blood.
13. I continued to donate in this manner for approximately 15 years, whilst I worked at John Lewis. In 1990, I moved offices to Victoria Street. I donated blood at the parish hall of the Westminster Cathedral. I did not donate as much from this point onwards.
14. I continued to donate until I retired in 1999. I received a certificate of thanks from Dr Mary Brennan, the Director of the Donor Service. I have also received a silver award for the number of donations I have made. I have donated 74 units of blood throughout my time as a blood donor.
15. I received a small certificate every time I donated blood which contains the dates of each donation. I have exhibited a schedule of these donations to this witness statement, which I have compiled from the certificates I have kept. I have also kept my diaries from over the years, which mark the dates on which I donated blood. These diaries

do not include any details aside from the fact that I gave blood on those days and do not include the names of any medical staff. I have included these dates onto the schedule.

16. I am providing this statement because I have donated blood for so many years. I donated blood because I realised I could save lives by doing so. Working with people who have been in the war effort encouraged me to donate blood because I realised how many people depend on the blood transfusion service and that I might need one myself one day.

17. I think it is appalling that this scandal has gone on for so long and that the possibility that blood has been contaminated with awful diseases has been known about for such a long time. This tragedy should have been acted on sooner. So many people have died, and so many lives have been ruined beyond repair.

18. I would have thought that, if this country imported blood, a test centre would have been established to check every imported pint and confirm that it was not dangerous. By the same token, I cannot understand why another country would export a contaminated product.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 9th September 2019