Witness Name: Frederick Thomas Dawes
Statement No: WITN4465001
Exhibits: **WITN4465002 - 6**
Dated: 2 December 2020.

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF FREDERICK THOMAS DAWES

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12 June 2020.

I, Frederick Thomas Dawes, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Frederick Thomas Dawes. My date of birth is GRO-C 1948. I live at GRO-C

2. I have been married twice. My first marriage was on 31 March 1973, when I was 24 years old. Pauline and I were married for 21 years and had a daughter called Donna Marie, who was born on GRO-C

1978. My daughter is now married and I have two grandsons. I have no contact with my ex wife nor does my daughter.

3. This marriage ended in 1994 and we divorced a year later. I raised my daughter on my own from the ages of 14-16. When she was 16 she went to college in Somerset, where she met her future husband.

4. I married my second wife Janet in around 2014. She is a type 1 diabetic, so that keeps me on my toes. We look after each other.

5. I am retired but I worked for WHS Smith wholesale for 29 years, packing and driving a wagon and forklift. I originally retired at the age of 57, but went back to work at age 58, working on the tankers. It was an easy job as it was not physical. At the age of 65 I retired again.

6. I intend to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment I received and the impact it had on my family and our lives together.

7. I can confirm that I have chosen not to have legal representation.

8. I wish to acknowledge that the Inquiry Investigator has explained the anonymity process to me, I am not seeking anonymity due to the fact that I want my story to be told, I have lost too many friends not to stand up and be counted.

9. The Inquiry Investigator has explained to me the 'Right to Reply' procedure, and I understand that if I am critical of a medical professional or organisation, they will have the right to reply to that criticism.

10. I wish to acknowledge that naturally as time passes, memories can fade. I have been able to provide approximate timeframes for matters

based on life events. However, these timeframes should be accepted as 'near to' rather than precise dates.

Section 2. How Infected

11. I was born with Christmas Disease, which is known as Haemophilia B. I didn't find out that I was a haemophiliac until I was 10 years old and needed to have a tooth extraction. Prior to this, no one in the family knew that I was a haemophiliac.

12. After I had the tooth extraction, the bleeding would not stop and I bled for 48 hours. I was unconscious and was put on what was in those days known as the 'free list', which basically means that you are dying.

13. I pulled through by receiving transfusions of saline, plasma and blood.

14. I was then transferred to the Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1958 and put under the care of Professor Wilkinson, who was the Director of Haematology. He did some tests and diagnosed me with Christmas disease. Professor Wilkinson was an absolute gem unlike my current consultant of which I will speak about later.

15. All of my treatment for haemophilia and Hepatitis C has been at the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

16. They did not know much about haemophilia in those days and they called us 'bleeders'. Even my mum called me a little bleeder.

17. My diagnosis caused a bit of a stir in the family, as they had to trace the family tree to determine where I had inherited it from. All of the males had to be tested. I am sure that it came from my mother's side of the family. My mother was a carrier, but she did not know this. 3 out of

the 5 males in my family were haemophiliacs, but it did skip some generations. My late sister refused to be tested. She never married.

18. GRO-C

19. After my daughter was born my wife and I attended a medical appointment and we were told that the best thing to do would be GRO-C GRO-C so that haemophilia would be prevented from passing to future generations. GRO-C GRO-C. In those days they thought that the only way to stop haemophilia was GRO-C GRO-C. This sounds a bit draconian now but that's how it was.

20. After my inital tooth extraction I did not have any more major trouble until I was about 17. I had 4 more teeth out and to coin the phrase, 'I bled like a pig' Again I required more plasma etc,

21. After the advent of clotting factors I was given injections of Factor 9 whenever I had a bleed. Factor 9 is the treatment that is prescribed for Christmas disease. Over the years, I would usually get bleeds every week. I could get them from doing anything, for example, cleaning the car. I now wear a medi-alert bracelet just in case I get a bleed.

22. I can't remember how many Factor 9 injections I have received over the years. However, I would say that it did not amount to hundreds as I was very good and tried to stay out of trouble. I was offered prophylactic treatment but I declined, as I don't like needles, so I only received Factor 9 when I had a bleed. After my diagnosis with Hepatitis C, I refused prophylactic treatment, as I feared that it would increase my chances of being infected again.

23. Whenever I did have a bleed and went to hospital, the nurses would bring an already filled syringe in a kidney bowl and administer the injection, so we didn't know exactly what we were getting. I was not warned about the risk of being exposed to any infections from receiving Factor 9, because as I already mentioned, it was brought to me already prepared.

24. I am not sure whether I was ever given cryoprecipitate. You never questioned what you were given, you just received it.

25. I was restricted in what activities I could be a part of at school because of my haemophilia. I had to do ballroom dancing and chess or the more 'girly' activities rather than the contact sports, because of the risk of having a bleed.

26. I was a champion at chess and it was the one thing I took seriously. As a boy I only played rugby once and had to stop the game after 15 minutes, the teacher saw that I was wearing my glasses and I had to leave the field. I was a champion at chess and it was the one thing I took seriously. I still play today as it keeps my mind active.

27. In those days there was corporal punishment at school. In senior school, which was from the ages of 11-15, I wanted to be one of the lads and I took the corporal punishment. I didn't tell my teachers that I was a haemophiliac. It was silly, but I wanted to be one of the boys. In retrospect, I should have told them, as I was the one who came out worse with bruises and the occasional small bleed.

28. After I left school I started working in a factory at the age of 16. I was on my way to work one morning on my pedal bike and a guy driving a van hit me. I spent 12 months off work and was in Salford Royal Infirmary for 3 days. The charge nurse informed me a few days later that I was in the wrong hospital and I was transferred to Manchester Royal Infirmary where I received transfusions of plasma.

29. After 2 months I was transferred to Barnes convalescent home for rehabilitation and I was there for 3 months. I was then discharged and sent to Bolton Royal Infirmary where I received physiotherapy 3 times a week. This was in 1964.

30. As a result of the accident my right hip is now lower than my left and I have no feeling in the inside of my right lower leg.

31. Because of the accident I didn't start going out to the pubs with my mates until I was 19 or so. I would always sit with my back to the wall. I was always very safety conscious as I feared that I would have a bleed if there was a fight and someone hit me. I needed to see what was going on.

32. I have been asked if I know how I was infected with Hepatitis C. The answer is no, It was either through the transfusions I received from my tooth extractions and or the treatment I received for the bike accident or the Factor 9 injections that I received on other occasions when I had bleeds.

33. Over the years I have been under the following doctors. Professor Wilkinson, Doctor Israels, Doctor Delamore and finally Doctor Hay.

34. I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C in March 1994. At that time, I was under the care of Doctor Charles Hay at Manchester Royal Infirmary. I went in for my routine annual check up, and part of the check up was a consultation with Doctor Hay. I called him 'Charlie boy'. I went to the consultation alone that day as my wife was at work. It is fair to say that I do not really like him. He is the current head of haematology.

35. During the consultation I asked Doctor Hay for my Hepatitis status. He went through my file of medical notes turning the pages, and said 'HIV negative, and you are Hepatitis C positive, which we already know'. He

carried on and I stopped him. I said words to the effect of 'I only knew this 15 seconds ago'. His bedside manner towards me was terrible.

36. Doctor Hay had never mentioned to me on any prior occasion that I was Hepatitis C positive. I was diagnosed with genotype 3 Hepatitis C. I was never told what my viral load was or how long I had been infected with Hepatitis C at that point in time.

37. If I could describe Doctor Hay's attitude to me in one word it would be 'defensive'. My experience with the whole response from the NHS from 1994 is that they were defensive. I got the impression that Manchester Royal Infirmary were not in a good way as the doctors were constantly leaving.

38. After Doctor Hay informed me I had Hepatitis C I felt blank and annoyed, but I was not surprised as I was already pre-warned by my mate, Peter Mossman. Peter told me to ask about my Hepatitis status, as it was highly likely I was infected. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have asked.

39. The only information or advice Doctor Hay gave me about Hepatitis C and its transmission was that it would be best if I used a condom during sex. I was unsure whether I should still have sex and they didn't know whether it could definitely be transmitted through sex.

40. In around 1997 Doctor Hay offered me a cocktail treatment of Interferon and Ribavirin for the Hepatitis C. I volunteered to receive this treatment for 6 months. I think that I was a 'guinea pig' for the Interferon and Ribavirin combination treatment.

41. I had Interferon injections and Ribavirin tablets. My wife injected the Interferon into my stomach area once a week on a Wednesday. I had the injection at the same time each Wednesday night.

42. I was working just before I started the treatment and I asked the hospital if I would be driving under the influence while I was being treated, as I would be on a cocktail of drugs. They said that they didn't know. I told them that before I left I needed an answer. From memory they said that they had never been asked that question before, they didn't have an answer.

43. I asked the hospital to give me a sick note to cover the 6 months of treatment. They told me that I needed to go to my GP to get a sick note. I went to my GP at Oakwood Medical Centre in Barnton. She said that she couldn't give me a sick note for 26 weeks, but she could give me one for 13 weeks, and if I could prove that I was still taking the treatment, she would give me another sick note for 13 weeks.

44. I ended up getting sick notes to cover the 26 weeks of treatment, and I was on sick leave, receiving sick pay for that time.

45. The Interferon and Ribavirin treatment was funded by the NHS. After 20 weeks of treatment, Doctor Hay decided that I would need to pay for the remainder of my prescriptions. I refused to pay and threatened to stop the treatment if I had to pay. In consultation with the Pharmacist, it was agreed that I would not have to pay for the treatment.

46. At the end of the 26 weeks of treatment I was tested and the Hepatitis C virus was undetectable and the PCR test was positive, which means I had the antibodies to Hepatitis C.

47. After finishing the treatment I have been monitored on a regular basis. Initially I had a check-up and my bloods taken every 6 months, but I now have a check-up every 12 months. My current Doctor is Doctor Thatchell at Manchester Royal Infirmary, who is brilliant.

48. No further action is needed in relation to my liver at the moment. As far as I am aware, there is no cirrhosis or scarring. I have not had any

biopsies or scans and my ALT levels are fine. As far as I am concerned there is nothing wrong with my liver. However, I always think that if I were to have a post-mortem there would be liver damage.

49. I have been diagnosed with 12 gallstones, which remain, through my choice untreated I'm hesitant to have an operation to remove them.

50. As far as I am aware, these days when you attend hospital you have a liver function test as well as Hepatitis and HIV tests. I understand that you are automatically tested and you don't have to ask.

51. At the moment my health is that of a typical 70 something year old. I am asthmatic and I have aches and pains all the time.

52. The last time I went for a check-up was last year. My appointment for next year in January has already been postponed due to COVID-19. I know that it is not the Hospital's fault, but if it turns out that there is something wrong with me it will be their fault.

53. I paid £50 and was able to receive my medical records. There were some gaps in my medical history in the medical records, which were unexplained, and I could not understand. My thoughts are that any relevant entries have been removed.

Section 3. Other Infections

54. As far as I am aware, I did not receive any other infection besides Hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

55. I believe that I was tested for Hepatitis and HIV without my knowledge and consent as when Doctor Hay informed me that I was Hepatitis C

positive in 1994, I had no idea that I had been tested for either infection and that I had already tested positive for Hepatitis C.

Section 5. Impact

Physical and mental impact of Hepatitis C

56. As I mentioned previously, after Doctor Hay told me I was Hepatitis C positive I felt blank. I don't remember much about the drive home from Manchester Royal Infirmary that day, but I remember that I cried.

57. On the day of my diagnosis I phoned my friend Peter Mossman, a fellow haemophiliac and co-founder of the Manor House Group, and broke down crying. Peter told me to put the phone down and that he was on his way to see me. At the time, he was 18 miles away in Wythenshawe, but that is what you did in those days. He came around and we had a drink together. On that point I have never drunk heavily, nor taken any prohibited drugs. I don't have any tattoos or piercings.

58. Although I have been told that I've cleared the virus, my mental state is that I haven't. In my own mind I am not 100% convinced that it is not still there lurking in my body waiting to come up again. I live with the fear of the unknown. I think about it and I try not to let it ruin my life. I like to laugh and I try not to worry too much, but there are times when I am on my own and something comes up, or I hear about someone and it all comes back to me. I have lost more friends than I've got. A lot of my friends who had Hepatitis C have now passed away.

59. I refuse prophylactic treatment with Factor 9 because of a fear that I will be infected again. The more you take, the higher your chances are of being infected.

60. As far as I am concerned whenever I had a bleed and was treated at Hospital with Factor 9, they were knowingly still giving us the bad products and they were guaranteeing the good stuff to the under 16's. We were the lost causes. I believe that they thought they could protect the future by giving the young one's the better stuff. They will no doubt deny all this. To this day, I will only go to hospital if I have a really bad bleed, as I fear that I may receive contaminated products again.

61. I don't bring Factor 9 with me when I travel because I won't do prophylactic treatment. I therefore only travel to countries where I know that Factor 9 is readily available, such as Europe and the United States.

62. I have been refused life insurance because of my infection. I know that Doctors have to be careful about what they put on death certificates. In the old days if they said that you died of AIDS the insurance companies would not pay out.

63. One time an insurance salesman came to my front door and one of his questions was whether I had ever been tested for HIV. I told him I had been tested many times. I believe that I would be refused the insurance if I wanted to buy it on the basis that I'd been tested for HIV.

Physical and mental impact of the treatment

64. When I started the hepatitis treatment they told me, 'we don't tell you the side-effects, you tell us'. They said that they were on a learning curve with the combination treatment.

65. The main side effect I experienced with the Interferon was discomfort with my feet. The only way that I can describe it was that for 6 months I wore someone else's feet. They were not my feet. I used to wake up at night and go for walks as they kept me up. I believe it had something to

do with the nerve endings in my feet. The nurse confirmed that this was a side effect.

66. You always knew that you had the injection the day after as you could feel its effects.

67. I also felt a bit low while taking the Interferon. It was just a different feeling, like nothing I had experienced before.

Impact on family members

68. My first marriage broke down a couple of months after my Hepatitis C diagnosis.

69. I can't remember my first wife's reaction to my diagnosis, as a lot of that period is blank. I don't remember her having a negative reaction; we just carried on until we split a couple of months later. I believe that my diagnosis was however a contributing factor to my marriage breakdown.

70. I told my second wife about my infection when we were courting. I went out with her a couple of times before telling her. She didn't quite understand at first and went a bit quiet for a while. However, it did not affect the new relationship that much and we are very happy now that I have cleared the virus.

71. As far as I know, GRO-C

72. We have a saying; 'if I am bleeding don't kiss it better'.

Stigma

73. There have been a couple of occasions where I have experienced stigma associated with Hepatitis C.

74. After my diagnosis, I went to the dentist at Manchester Royal Infirmary for a check-up, as I needed a filling. The rules in those days were that you could have the first appointment in the morning, the last appointment before and after lunch or the last appointment of the day.

75. I attended the appointment and had to wait for a little while in the waiting room. The nurse said that they wouldn't be long. When I went in, everything in the room, up to the lights, was wrapped in cling film. They didn't know what to do. Even the clock was cling filmed. Everything was cling filmed; it was a bit like COVID-19. I couldn't believe it. It made me cry. It made me feel like a leper and like I was unclean.

76. They knew that I had been diagnosed with Hepatitis C, as I had been receiving treatment at the Hospital.

77. On another occasion, I was staying with my friend Jackie Brannagan and she had another friend who was coming to stay from Farnworth. The friend knew that I was staying and said that I would need to have my own towels and cutlery. The friend also wanted to confirm that I would not be using the same bathroom. This is how people sometimes treated me. It really upset me. Jackie told me that she was sorry.

78. A lot of my friends do not know that I have Hepatitis C as I have not spoken about it with them, especially my mates down here where I live. I don't think they would understand.

Financial impact

79. Financially, my infection has not had much of an impact on me as I have always worked and I have cut my cloth accordingly with the lifestyle I lead.

80. The only time I have not worked was during the 6 months of Interferon and Ribavirin treatment, when I was off work on sick leave and was paid the reduced/sick rate.

81. I am better off now than when I was working. I receive the EIBSS payment and my state pension.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

82. As I have refused prophylactic treatment with Factor 9, a few years ago my current treating Doctor, Doctor Thatchell, organised to have 9,000 units of recombinant Factor 9 to prescribed to me and stored in my fridge at home, so that an ambulance can administer the Factor 9 to me on the way to hospital if there is ever a major incident where I need to go to hospital. My local hospital does not have the facility to provide Factor 9.

83. I never used the provided supply. At my annual consultation last year I took back the unused amount of the expired Factor 9 and asked for a new prescription. They would not give me anymore as they said that they no longer allow the funding for it.

84. Psychological support was offered to me. One day I received a letter offering counselling but I declined it. I felt that I always had a shoulder to cry on. My second wife Janet has always been there to support me and I was always able to rely on my mates, even though I didn't tell them much about it.

85. I was unhappy about the way that Doctor Hay spoke to me and treated me at certain times. I was also unhappy with the way that he informed me that I had been tested for Hepatitis C without my knowledge and diagnosed me.

86. When I was about 30, I had to have a tonsillectomy, I was sent to Bolton Royal Infirmary for this. During the operation I bled profusely and was unconscious for 24 hours. I had 'one to one' nursing care and was in for hospital for 10 days. I received several transfusions and no doubt blood products.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

87. Years ago, my friend Peter Mossman told me about the Skipton Fund. He told me to get in touch with Skipton as I was entitled to compensation. I got in touch with them and received the fuel payment first. I then received a lump sum payment of £20,000 for being infected.

88. I remember that I just filled out the paperwork that I received from the Skipton Fund and submitted it to them. I did not have to take the application form to my GP or the hospital. I just sent it in to the Fund.

89. I now receive a monthly payment of £2,333 from EIBSS. At the time that I received the letter to apply for EIBSS I threw it in the bin as I had just had my PIP taken away from me. The only reason I changed my mind about applying was because Peter Mossman told me I should apply.

90. I was receiving PIP because of my haemophilia. I was receiving a mobility allowance and this was taken off me 2 to 3 years ago because they said that I no longer fit the criteria. I can't understand why this is the case as I am still a haemophiliac.

91. I remember that during the days I lobbied for the HCV infected haemophiliacs and we were asking for compensation. People who were infected with HIV allegedly received an annual pension of £12,000. I stood up at a meeting we had and asked for the same payment for the Hepatitis C infected haemophiliacs, as we had not received any compensation at that point. We never received this kind of payment.

92. I always chose to carry on working and not to lie back on payments. I have always worked, with the exception of the 26 weeks I was off work on sick leave during my Interferon and Ribavirin treatment

Section 8. Other Issues

93. Around 30 years ago, after my diagnosis, I went to see a Solicitor in Altrincham with some fellow infected haemophiliacs. There were 3 of us. It was a half hour free consultation. We sought legal advice about taking private action against the hospitals for being infected.

94. The other 2 haemophiliacs had been treated with Factor 8. The Solicitor told them that they had a good chance of being successful in a legal action but told me that my chances of being successful were limited. This put me off taking any legal action.

95. I have been campaigning on behalf of infected haemophiliacs for 38 years. Years ago, my campaign involved lobbying parliament.

96. In 2000 a group of us went to the building where the health department was located in London. We took a bus down. I printed 999 copies of pamphlets with various headings including "Hepatitis C is killing me" to distribute to the public. They detailed what the NHS was doing.

97. Only a certain amount of people were allowed into the health department building and the police were there. I stayed outside and handed out my pamphlets to the public.

98. We were lobbying as we wanted recognition and for someone to be held accountable. We were asking the government why they did it, and to admit that they did it, as many years ago they would not admit it, they were defensive. We just wanted recognition and closure.

99. You will get a lot of people saying that they want compensation. I think there is a compensation culture now. I just want them to admit their wrongs and for the people involved to be dismissed from their jobs. Whenever we would go to London to lobby, the ministers would say that the infected blood scandal was before their time and that they would bring it up in the house at the next meeting.

100. The investigator has shown me a series of correspondence in 2003 between my friend Jackie Brannagan, the Minister for Health and my constituent MP and myself in relation to my concerns about being refused recombinant Factor 9 for an upcoming tooth extraction, and my reluctance to be treated with regular Factor 9.

101. Mr Osbourne received a response from Melanie Johnson at the Department of Health stating that, clotting factors are tightly regulated by the screening of blood and anti-viral measures, and that the government had invested an extra £88 million over the next 3 years to provide recombinant clotting factors to all adult haemophiliacs. These items of correspondence are labelled as **Exhibits WITN4465002-WITN4465006** and are summarised in the Exhibit table attached to this statement.

102. I can confirm that I have never received a response in writing or otherwise from my constituent MP, Mr George Osbourne, or the Minister for Health stating that Factor concentrates are now virus free.

103. I have been asked if I have ever received a letter concerning the risk of vCJD. The answer is yes but I cannot remember the content. With the majority of this type of correspondence I would simply put it straight into the bin as it annoyed me.

104. To end, I would just like to say that I feel betrayed by the health system and physically raped by being infected with contaminated product.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 2/12\2020

Table of Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Year	Description
WITN4465002	28/05/2003	Letter from Mrs J Brannagan to Mr Alan Milburn MP, Minister for Health, CC George Osborne MP, regarding upcoming tooth extraction and refusal of Doctor Charles Hay to treat Mr Dawes with recombinant Factor 9, and his reluctance to use regular Factor 9 again.
WITN4465003	29/05/2003	Letter from Fred Dawes to Mr George Osbourne MP confirming that the attached letter (WITN4465002) is sent to him by a friend and that Mr Dawes acknowledges its contents.
WITN4465004	05/05/2003	Letter from George Osbourne MP to Mr Alan Milburn MP enclosing letters from Mr Dawes and Mrs Brannagan.
WITN4465005	28/08/2003	Letter from Melanie Johnson, Department of Health to Mr George Osbourne regarding correspondence from his constituent.
WITN4465006	04/07/2003	Request to Action Officer Form for PO- Reference PO1030462. Contains handwritten note from Action Officer Zubeda Seedat saying that they should reply and say how safe clotting factors are now- free of virus etc.