

7/19/22

Witness Name: Martin Andrew

Statement No.: WITN5896001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARTIN RICHARD ANDREW

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 4 August 2021.

I, Martin Richard Andrew, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Martin Richard Andrew. My date of birth is GRO-C 1958 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I have lived in GRO-C since 1986. I work for the local authority in road safety. I am married with two boys who are 30 and 26. Both have left home although one son is returning to live with us soon. My wife retired a couple of months ago. Neither of us are quite old enough to be eligible for a state pension.
2. I intend to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C (HCV) contracted from blood products to treat my Haemophilia. In particular, I intend to discuss the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment received and the impact this had on my family and I and our lives together.

3. I can confirm that I have chosen not to have legal representation and that the Inquiry Investigator has explained the anonymity process to me. I do not wish to be anonymous as I wish for my story to be known in full.
4. I can confirm that I have never sought to apply for my medical records.

Section 2. How Infected

5. In around 1965, when I was 6 or 7 years old, I was diagnosed with mild haemophilia. I had a tooth removed which did not stop bleeding, for which I first received Factor VIII. I was told that I had 21% clotting factor. Subsequently, it was discovered that my maternal grandfather was also haemophiliac. He was a farmer worker disabled after being kicked by a horse. They did not realise at the time that his haemophilia had triggered his disability. I received Factor VIII very infrequently and only when necessary.
6. Until I was 18, I was treated at the Sheffield Royal Hallamshire Hospital. I believe it was here that I first received Factor VIII. Prior to that, I only received cryoprecipitate. DDAVP was attempted but was ineffective. Nevertheless, whilst I avoided metal work and football, I experienced very few problems as a result of my haemophilia until I reached my A Levels. I played badminton and squash and began to experience bleeds in my fingers, knees and elbows.
7. After the incident when I was 6 or 7, I do not think I received Factor VIII again until my early teens. I fell on my hip and needed blood products. These were administered at the Sheffield Royal Hallamshire Hospital. It was never proven but it was thought that the additional stress of A levels may have triggered the bleeds.
8. In 1975 or 1976, when I was 18, my care was transferred to the Haemophilia Centre at Lincoln General as it was closer (under 30

miles). I had a couple of episodes as an inpatient. I was living at home with my parents then.

9. In 1986, I moved to Suffolk. I met my wife the following year. She is from London. We have lived here ever since. I had a couple of bleeds when I moved down here. The Ipswich hospital at the time did not have a Haemophilia Centre so I was seen at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. Ipswich now has a centre.
10. In the early 1990s, Addenbrookes called me in for various blood tests, which I now consider to be as a result of a lookback exercise. I was then invited for a consultation and informed that I had NANB Hepatitis. This was about the time my first son was born, in 1991. I was told not to panic and that there would be treatments available. I do not think that they knew much about the virus at the time so they could not provide me with a great deal of information. I believe I was given some literature to take home. No advice was offered to my wife.
11. It was evident that the doctors were concerned. I came away thinking, how long do I have left? I was relieved that I had not contracted HIV. The AIDS epidemic was rife in the media and so I was pleased that I had not been infected with this. Nevertheless, there was a lot of uncertainty surrounding HCV and I was not sure how it was going to affect me.
12. Pretty soon after my diagnosis, I was called in for a liver biopsy. I was told that it was relatively likely that I had liver damage. I do not remember it being that painful. I had to have blood products as a precautionary measure. It was probably a few days before I was discharged. Treatments were discussed. I do not think I waited long for the results, which were communicated face-to-face.
13. It was suggested that my wife and I use condoms. We had one son but wished to have another. We took the risk and my wife became pregnant. We were advised to be careful with any cuts and blood

spillages. [GRO-C]

[GRO-C]. I was also advised to give up alcohol and keep in shape in order to improve my liver. It would have been nice to have been able to donate blood, but of course I know that this is not an option. [GRO-C]

[GRO-C]

Section 3. Other Infections

14. I think Addenbrookes tested me for everything at once. As far as I am aware, I have not contracted any other infection as a result of being given contaminated blood products.
15. I remember getting information about possible vCJD. But I do not know whether received any implicated batches or not. I cannot recall much information about this.

Section 4. Consent

16. I can confirm that my parents consented to me receiving FVIII. However, I do not believe that the risks of blood products were specifically mentioned. I remember how on one occasion, my parents took me for treatment for only a slight bleed. I think we would have avoided this if we had known about the risks. It was always administered at the hospital.
17. At a certain point during my treatment for haemophilia, we were made aware that blood products were potentially contaminated. Subsequently, I consented to be tested for a range of viral infections.
18. I am not aware of having been tested without my consent for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

19. Fortunately, I have not experienced many physical problems as a result of having been infected with Hepatitis C. However, as there was very little known about the virus at the time, my prognosis was uncertain. My wife was pregnant and I was worried that my son would grow up without a father. I remember being behind the wheel with my in-laws and suddenly I felt so anxious that I could not drive.
20. In 1992 or 1993, when my oldest son was a toddler, I began treatment with Interferon. It was taken subcutaneously; I injected myself twice a week. I was given a comprehensive demonstration from Addenbrookes beforehand. I remember taking a foreign holiday and having to explain to customs what the needles were for but they were accepting.
21. I was not warned of side effects but professionals kept asking me if I was having any problems. I would repeatedly tell them that I was fine. It seemed as if they were surprised to hear this. The only potential effect from treatment was hair loss. I noticed clumps on the floor of the shower. This was quite alarming. When I told the clinicians, they were surprised and noted this down as they were not aware of this previously. Fortunately, my hair has since grown back since.
22. During treatment, I was monitored every few months, then every 6 months and then annually. My viral load fluctuated throughout, however, I eventually cleared the virus. A second biopsy after treatment was completed confirmed that the Interferon had reversed some of the liver damage which was now not quite as severe as expected. Every year I have a blood test at Ipswich Hospital. I have never had ultrasounds or fibroscans on my liver. My liver function appears to be stable.
23. Fortunately, I managed to work throughout the period of being on the medication. When I was diagnosed with HCV, I informed my line manager, who was very understanding. She asked if I wanted to take

time off during treatment but I never felt that this was necessary. When I needed to take a half day for blood tests or consultations at Addenbrookes, she was very accommodating.

24. Only my immediate family, my employer and healthcare professionals are aware of my HCV and so I cannot say that I have been subject to any stigma. I refrained from telling friends. I have a very good dentist. They know that I'm a haemophiliac and so take extra precautions with me. When I needed a wisdom tooth removed, I had to go to hospital. This was to prevent a major bleed due to my haemophilia and not because of my HCV status. He has never treated me any differently as a result.
25. During the treatment, I gave up alcohol altogether. I now have the odd glass of wine but at times even that feels more than enough. Abstaining from alcohol did not affect my social life as I had just moved to GRO-C at this point, miles away from my friends and with a young family. My lifestyle had already changed anyway.
26. My wife has been incredibly supportive. She was very worried following my diagnosis. The biggest concern was that we had one child and we wanted another. Whilst we were advised to use condoms for protection, we were not provided with any alternative methods for conception GRO-C
27. My wife has commented how she had to manage her feelings at the time by herself because I did not want to discuss the matter.
28. I am a fairly quiet person. I do not think having Hepatitis C affected me significantly. When I got my A Levels, I did not take up the opportunity to go to university because of the bleeds in my hands. My haemophilia led me to aspire to a quiet, uncomplicated life. I think Hepatitis C may have also implicated me in this respect.

29. Indeed, in retrospect, I think that my uncertain prognosis held me back from chasing job opportunities and further education courses. I did not see the point in pursuing them if I might not have long to live. Whilst Addenbrookes tried to put me at ease and reassure me that I would be looked after, it was difficult not to get tunnel vision and fixate on the potential problems in my health and life expectancy.
30. However, although I am in a relatively low-level position now, I am happy. Any financial repercussions that I have experienced are attributable more to my haemophilia than anything else. Because I work for the county council, I have a health policy. I have never sought life insurance. Every day, I think how lucky I have been that I am in good health despite being infected with a potentially fatal illness.
31. I feel guilty because there are so many families that have been so badly affected by contaminated blood. Whilst I was infected with Hepatitis C, I have been only very gently touched by it. Any money I have received from the support schemes, I have put aside as I am always worried it might get taken away; I feel a bit like I do not deserve it. In many ways, I have survivor's guilt.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

32. I have never faced any difficulties or obstacles in accessing treatment as a result of the virus. I was treated with Interferon pretty soon after my diagnosis. I had been referred to a specialist Addenbrookes who was very renowned in his field and so I felt looked after. I was aware from the media that it was an expensive treatment but this was never communicated to me during consultations.
33. I have never been offered psychological support or counselling but I needn't ask either. I did not need it. Even when I had liver damage, I was assured not to worry as treatment would be promptly available.

The focus was always on treatment to clear the virus rather than psychological support.

34. To my knowledge no support was offered to my wife and family.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

35. In 2005, Skipton wrote to me to inform me that I would be eligible for financial assistance. I was not expecting the money; it came out of the blue I filled out an application form which was very straightforward. I think Addenbrookes provided the supporting evidence including the blood products that I had been given. It was remarkably easy and I did not wait long for the payment. I received the first amount of £20,000 later that year.

36. I now receive financial assistance from EIBSS. I am putting it in a savings account because I keep expecting them to say that they want it back. I received a lumpsum payment earlier this year of £30,000. This was given automatically and I did not have to fill out any application form. I hope they do not ask for it back because this is why I am taking early retirement!

37. I now receive quarterly payments of £4,728 from EIBSS. It was a surprise when they sent me a letter one day to inform me of this. They requested my bank account details and the following day the money was in my account.

Section 8. Other Issues

38. It is too late now, but it shocks me that the NHS would source treatments simply because they were cheaper as opposed to in the best interests of patient safety and wellbeing. I wonder if this remains an ethos of the NHS? Are they learning from their mistakes? It will be

interesting when the Inquiry is concluded. I am not naturally a conservative supporter; however, I was quite pleased when David Cameron stepped down and introduced the Inquiry. At least that is one thing he has done that is worthy.

39. As early iterated, I feel both very lucky and guilty that I have been treated well, both by medical professionals and by the support schemes providing financial assistance. It saddens me to discover from watching the television, that others have not received the same quality of treatment.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 7th September 2022