

Witness Name: Andrew
Morgan
Statement No:
WITN7086001
Exhibits: Nil
Dated: XX 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANDREW MORGAN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 29 April 2022.

I, Andrew Morgan, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Andrew Morgan. My date of birth is GRO-C 1964. My address is known to the Inquiry. I married my late wife, Elizabeth ("Liz") in 1982, and we have two children and seven grandchildren. I am currently employed as a lorry driver.
2. I intend to speak about Liz's infection with Hepatitis C ("HCV"), after receiving a number of transfusions. In particular, the nature of how we learnt about her infection, how her illness affected her and our family thereafter, and the financial assistance she received.
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. 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.
5. 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.
6. I have constructed this statement without access to my wife's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

7. Liz was born on GRO-C 1964 and passed away on 5 December 2021 (aged 55).

8. Liz and I were childhood sweethearts. We met when we were 15/16 years old at school. We got married in 1982 and had our two children in 1983 and 1984. We were married for over 39 years and had been together for 43 years in total.

9. Liz suffered from Crohn's Disease, but she learnt to deal with it. When she was growing up, the doctors didn't really understand what it was. We used to put it down to a bad stomach. I remember after my daughter was born in 1983, Liz had an appointment with a specialist doctor from London. He took one look at her and diagnosed her with Crohn's immediately.

10. Liz got on with her life, she went to college and obtained her qualifications to be a registered childminder. We changed one of the rooms in our home to ensure the place was suitable to look after children.

11. Liz received her first blood transfusion following the birth of our son in 1984. She received a subsequent one following the birth of our daughter in 1983. She received a further two as a result of her Crohn's disease, but I believe that these were after the two children were born. I think these were around 1985-1986. I understand that she received all of these blood transfusions at Morriston Hospital, Swansea ("Morriston").

12. Unfortunately later in life, Liz also suffered from arthritis. In or around 2016, a new treatment had been made available to Liz to assist with this. For her to have the treatment, she had to get blood tests. She went to have these done at Morriston.

13. She received a follow up phone call from a doctor's secretary at the Morriston, I don't think it was a doctor. She was informed on the phone that she had HCV. She was then asked a number of questions by the secretary because I recall her

saying that she had been to the Dominican Republic, so she must have been asked where she had been on holiday. The secretary informed Liz that the hospital would be in touch for a follow up appointment, no further information was given to her. When she got off the phone, she was in tears. We were racking our brains as to where she could have got it from. We had been to Egypt in 2005. We were just so shocked.

14. Liz had never taken intravenous drugs; she had two tattoos but these were done in a reputable parlour. Liz had her ears pierced but these had also been done at a reputable place.

15. Approximately 6-8 weeks later, we finally got an appointment at Singleton Hospital, Swansea ("Singleton") with Dr Lee. At this point, Liz had started losing her balance quite a lot and couldn't go alone. I went to every hospital appointment with her. I remember being there for about an hour. All her liver/ HCV appointments were then at the Singleton.

16. Dr Lee was a junior consultant and gave us a couple of leaflets about HCV. Dr Lee had papers spread across his desk and informed us that Liz had been given American blood which had been infected with HCV. He said he knew the batch number of the blood that had infected her too. He informed Liz that she should not drink alcohol and suggested that I get tested: GRO-C
My son did not need to be tested as we were informed that the blood would have been screened properly by then. Thankfully GRO-C negative.

17. Even before this, Liz tended to have one glass of wine on Christmas Day only. The maximum she'd drink was about twice a year, so giving up alcohol wasn't an issue for her.

18. Dr Lee was really good. He couldn't apologise enough, even though it wasn't his fault. He said that Liz would need to have a liver scan and biopsy to check whether the HCV had had an impact on her liver functions.

19. We had a follow up appointment for this which

came back fine, there was no damage. Liz was meant to have a follow up scan to check on her liver every year, but she never did. I do not know why. The nurse that did the scan was also her nurse for Crohn's, but she was useless. My granddaughter recalls Liz being in pain and struggling after the biopsy.

20. As a result of Liz's infection with HCV, she was not eligible for the arthritis treatment. She deteriorated a lot as a result and ended up in a wheelchair. On 4 December 2021, Liz went to a concert with some friends. She came back later on in the evening, but took a bad turn overnight.

21. She woke up sweating and vomiting, her face had dropped. I thought she was having a stroke, so I called for an ambulance to take her to hospital. The doctors weren't sure if she had had a stroke or had a bleed on the brain. I wasn't allowed to stay with her at the hospital due to Covid restrictions. I was called by the hospital later on that day asking me to come in. Liz had less than 24 hours to live.

22. Liz passed away on 5 December 2021 as a result of a brain haemorrhage.

Section 3. Other Infections.

23. As far as I am aware, Liz was only infected with HCV.

Section 4. Consent

24. There were no issues in terms of consent, as far as I am aware.

25. I do not believe that she was treated for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact.

Mental/Physical Impact

26. Liz has always been tired, but we often put it down to her Crohn's Disease. As a result, it has always been hard to establish the impact of HCV from the effect of Crohn's. When Liz spoke to the Inquiry

initially, it was only then that we considered that the tiredness might have been down to HCV, rather than just Crohn's.

27. There were times that she couldn't get out of bed. She had trouble walking, but it was only in the last 5 years that she was in a wheelchair. We used to go for a meal with our friends every Saturday for an Indian, but this had to stop because she was just so tired.
28. She used to love cooking, but she struggled more and more to get up out of bed. By the time she got to the kitchen, she'd be exhausted and had to sit down. My granddaughter recalls Liz struggling with depression and suffering with anxiety.
29. We used to travel to the Dominican Republic every year. However, as Liz got more and more tired and had trouble with her walking, walking from departure to plane to get on the plane would cause her a lot of discomfort. We had to organise for assistance. When Liz found out about her infection with HCV, she was so embarrassed. We stopped going away as a result of her diagnosis. As a result, we haven't had any experience in obtaining holiday insurance following her infection with HCV.
30. Having HCV really got to Liz. She wouldn't go out anywhere for months. Up to the point of diagnosis, she was doing daycare for a variety of ages of children, from 6 weeks to 14 year olds. She earned more money than I did. As a result of her HCV diagnosis and her health deteriorating, she gave up childminding. We asked our daughter to help out but she said no because it was too much responsibility, so we shut the business down.
31. We lost a lot of money because she had to give up work, but we have always been pretty good with money generally, so we have been pretty lucky.
32. Liz often had to attend regular blood test appointments as a result of the medication that she was on for Crohns. When she attended the appointments, her medical notes would often have a yellow sticker saying 'toxic' or something like that. She used to hide it because she was really

embarrassed. She would often carry her medical notes, if given them to her, and hide them until she got into the room.

33. My granddaughter remembers that Liz would allow anyone, especially her grandchildren, to reuse straws, cutlery, cups or anything that she had used in fear of passing the virus to them. This continued until her passing.

Treatment

34. In the appointment with Dr Lee, he suggested treatment for HCV. The treatment was similar to chemotherapy and was taken in the form of a tablet. I cannot remember what the treatment was called. My granddaughter recalls the medication being called Ribavirin, which was an oral capsule.
35. The treatment had a bad impact on her. She vomited now and again and slept a lot. This was a direct result of the treatment as opposed to the other medication she was on for her Crohn's. She also continued to suffer from depression.
36. The treatment made her feel so ill that she didn't want to take it. I often told her that she didn't have a choice, she had to take it. The tiredness as a result wiped her out more so than ever before. She was very weak.
37. My granddaughter recalls being told that if nan showed any yellow in her skin or eyes, to immediately call 999.
38. Thankfully, following the 3-4 months of treatment, Liz cleared her HCV. It took months for her to recover from the treatment. She also recalls the treatment causing hair loss, which lowered Liz's self esteem. Liz was very proud of her hair.

Impact

39. As a result of Liz's HCV status, she didn't want to go out. We stopped seeing friends on the weekends because she was tired and didn't want anyone to know about her infection.

40. Liz was in a wheelchair for 3-4 years. She couldn't walk very far at all. She had an electric wheelchair and wanted to go out on her own, but I wouldn't let her. She used to get frustrated with that. Most of the time, she was stuck on her own because I'd work late and her granddaughter would be at college. It ruined our lives.
41. We had gone from going away on holiday 3-4 times a year to nothing. She started getting a bit better last summer, our son nagged us to book a holiday. We went, but it wasn't the same.
42. I can't remember why, but at some point after Liz had cleared the virus, she was taken into hospital by ambulance. They asked if Liz had any infections. I informed them that she had had HCV, but was told she had been cleared. The ambulance man said you couldn't clear HCV.
43. Liz got angry and annoyed at him, shouting that she was clear. I started laughing, I shouldn't have but I never really saw her like that. He did apologise because he didn't mean to upset her and she was ok after that. I think it was just a shock to hear at the time.
44. In terms of impact on my family, we are a close family. We always have been. Liz passing away has had a huge impact on two of my grandchildren. They used to see her very frequently. One of them was nana's boy. He always asks about Liz. When Liz was alive, she pushed for him to attend a school for autistic children. He was doing really well in that school until Liz passed away. Similarly, my other grandchild is still suffering. He is slightly too young at 6 years old to understand though, but knows that nana is up in heaven.
45. Liz was so close to her grandchildren. If it weren't for them, I don't think she would have lasted as long as she did.
46. Thankfully, Liz didn't suffer from any stigma attached to her HCV infection. Liz didn't want to tell anyone. We told those who needed to know. We did tell a couple of close friends who were very supportive.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

47. As far as I am aware, Liz didn't face any difficulties or obstacles obtaining treatment, care and support. The only issue she had was not having any follow up liver scans and bowel scans. Liz was meant to have bowel scans every year, but she couldn't because of the medication she was on for Crohn's.
48. As a result of not having regular checkups, she ended up getting bowel cancer. We went back to the hospital at one point because she was having trouble and wanted a colostomy bag to be put in permanently.
49. When we came into the hospital, the doctor just looked at us and I remember thinking that something wasn't right. It was at that moment that we knew what was wrong and the doctor didn't need to stay anything. It was bowel cancer.
50. Dr Martin Evans was her cancer consultant. I can't fault him. She was having regular six month scans with him. She had the majority of her bowel removed, but these check ups stopped towards the end.
51. She informed her dentist of her infection, which was absolutely fine.
52. Liz didn't have any counselling but was put on antidepressants after finding out about her HCV. She had ups and downs, but she was stuck in the house on her own a lot because I used to work nights and our granddaughter who often stayed with us would be off to college during the day.
53. Liz was also put on steroids. She really disliked these because they made her put on weight. However, she had to have them. As a result of her Crohn's Disease, they kept her on low doses of steroids. She then was diagnosed with fibromyalgia.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

54. We were told about the Skipton Fund from Dr Lee. He helped us with the application, which we found to be pretty straight forward.

55. Liz received the Skipton Stage 1 payment of £20,000. She subsequently received about £4,500 every three months.

56. I remember recently getting a letter WIBSS to inform us that the payment would be going up. I left it until the middle of January 2022 and received the payment into my account. I had forgotten to tell them that Liz had passed away.

57. When I called WIBSS, they said that I'd continue getting the payment, following Liz passing away. I now receive about £2,500 a month now. I understand that it's going to be dropping down after 12 months to about £1,800 a month. However, I was told that I'd be getting sums of money for the rest of my life. I was surprised that I'd get it for the rest of my life.

58. I also got £20,000 as a lump sum when Liz died. The woman on the phone said that what would probably happen later is that I'd get a lump sum and then the monthly payments will then just stop but I don't know.

Section 8. Other Issues

59. There are no other matters that I would like to raise.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated _____

08/07/22