



Witness Name: Patricia Adshead

Statement No.: WITN7585001

Exhibits: **Nil**

Dated:

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PATRICIA MECHELE ADSHEAD

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 2 December 2022.

I, Patricia Mechele Adshead, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is Patricia Mechele Adshead. My date of birth is GRO-C 1950 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am retired and live with my son Rob, who is my full-time carer. I have 4 adult children. Over my working life I have been a carer and worked in childcare, later obtaining an advanced diploma in childcare and education.
2. I intend to speak about my exposure to infected blood as a result of receiving a blood transfusion in 1975 following a post-partum haemorrhage leading to viral hepatitis.
3. I can confirm that I have not chosen to have legal representation and that the Inquiry Investigator has explained the anonymity process to

me. I am not seeking anonymity in relation to my statement as I have nothing to be ashamed about.

4. I can also confirm that the Inquiry Investigator has explained to me the 'Right to Reply' procedure, and 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 to matters based on life events.

## **Section 2. How Infected**

6. I had a challenging childhood as my father was in the SAS. I left home very naïve and moved into a bedsit. I met the father of my eldest son shortly afterwards, but once I fell pregnant, he decided that he wanted to pursue a college course and I was forced into putting our son up for adoption. I was very traumatised over this.
7. My youngest son Mark was born on GRO-C 1975. We lived in GRO-C at the time and I was admitted into hospital to give birth Solihull Hospital, Lode Lane, Solihull. It was a very difficult labour and I had a post-partum haemorrhage. The medical professionals were unaware where the bleeding was coming from and so I was rushed into theatre.
8. When I came round, I immediately asked for my baby. I had been forced into putting my first child up for adoption and so I was worried about my baby being taken away. He was in fact being bathed and was brought over to me afterwards. It was then explained that part of my placenta had been left inside after the birth and that caused the haemorrhage. I was told that I had lost so much blood that I required a blood transfusion and I have notes to confirm this. (See exhibit **WITN7585004** detailed at point 49). I am unaware of how many

pints were transfused and was not warned beforehand that I would require blood.

9. I experienced no immediate health issues after the blood was administered and once I was discharged from hospital I thought nothing of it and carried on with life as normal. I was very fit and healthy and used to run regularly.
10. In 2004, I was involved in a car accident in Lincoln. My youngest son brought me down to live with them and I found a flat overlooking the river in GRO-C I moved into my current house in July 2004.
11. My daughter came to visit GRO-C I ended up contracting this on my left foot so booked an appointment with my GP at Balmore Park Surgery, Hemdean Road, Caversham. During the consultation and having treated the verruca, a small corn was noticed on a toe on my right foot and this was also treated with a cryotherapy spray. He over-sprayed this leaving two toes and a portion of my foot burnt which then turned septic.
12. I was having counselling sessions at the time and others in the group commented that I looked in pain. I returned to the GP to explain that my toe had been over sprayed, but he commented that I was psychotic and making things up instead of admitting that he had done something wrong. This was the start of my nightmare journey and I subsequently ended up in hospital, where I was given medication for my heart.
13. The doctor apologised many years later, but he was specific and did not claim to over-spraying my foot.
14. After the incident, my health started to deteriorate. I ended up with sepsis and suffered a stroke which affected my balance. I have heart failure, kidney failure, Streptococcus infections, cysts on my breast and Hidradenitis Suppurativa. I have been under the care of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading.

15. Over the years I have been prescribed every single antibiotic and have recently finished a course of doxycycline.
16. I feel as though I have been fighting to prove that I have been ill since 2004 as I knew something was not quite right. I was referred to the liver specialist department at St Mary's Hospital London for a biopsy, the results of which confirmed that I had Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH). I have never been informed what caused the liver disease. Rifaximin was prescribed in 2017 to prevent to prevent hepatic encephalopathy.
17. I recently found a scan photo, in my Patient Access notes which states that I have viral hepatitis. Again I find this strange as no medical professional has ever discussed this with me.
18. I underwent a colonoscopy after the biopsy and was seen by the bowel specialist, Jon Simmonds. He confirmed that I no cancer was detected, but that I have Strep D. However, this diagnosis does not appear on Patient Access.
19. In 2012 I had a fibrosis score of 2.3 and in 2014 it was confirmed that I still had Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis but no significant fibrosis.
20. I recently asked Dr Jones to carry out a full hepatitis screening and my Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Level has returned as abnormal. (See exhibit **WITN7585002** detailed at point 49). It has never been explained whether I had HBV antibodies from a previous infection. HCV is written down incorrectly as HVC and the result is non applicable. (See exhibit **WITN7585005** detailed at point 49). The information I can retrieve from Patient Access is very limited and I presume they only upload what they want you to know. The information provided is incoherent and there is never an explanation for anything. I strongly believe that further tests should be conducted to investigate the matter further as something is not right and I am not being properly informed.

21. I am unaware if I have contracted HCV and am confused to why my result is marked down as non-applicable. (See exhibit **WITN7585002** detailed at point 49). Before the blood tests were taken, I was informed that I have a known heavy viral load and I would like this to be fully explored. No medical professional is willing to explain my test results.

22. I also asked where my blood samples were sent to and received a letter in response stating that they would have been sent to several different hospitals. They must know the exact laboratories where the blood has been tested and I am concerned over why this information has not been shared.

23. I have discovered that for some unknown reason, someone is involved in my case at Frimley Park Hospital. I have never been treated here and as yet no explanation has been made for this.

24. To confirm I have never taken intravenous drugs and have not received blood on any other occasion. I do have one tattoo on my arm, which was done by a licenced artist after I had the blood transfusion.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

25. To date, I have not been informed whether I have received any infection as a result of receiving blood.

### **Section 4. Consent**

26. At the time of the operation, I was not warned of the risks associated with a blood transfusion and did not provide consent to receiving the blood.

27. I have no reason to believe that I was ever treated or tested for the purposes of research.

## **Section 5. Impact**

28. My son Mark and his wife Anna live far away and I have been unable to see them recently because I am too unwell to travel. Neither am I in regular visiting contact with my grandchildren because of my ill health.

29. My other son, Rob has given up his life and career to become my full-time carer. He graduated university with a 2.1 degree in business and ran his own company. He went part-time as my health started to deteriorate, but has now given up work completely. He has to hear me sob every night in terrible pain.

30. At times, I think what is the point in living. I am in constant excruciating pain and I am fully reliant on my son. I used to be that person who did everything, but now I am confined to my home.

31. I have always eaten healthily, buy organic food and drink little alcohol, so I cannot understand why I am so unwell. I did, however, have my gallbladder removed at the age of 16.

32. Over the past few years, I have been hospitalised with a pulmonary embolism and E.Coli, but the medical professionals still insist there is nothing wrong with me and that everything is due to my weight.

33. Someone from the Department of Work and Pensions came to the house to carry out an assessment and commented about how ill I was. It was nice for my ill health to finally be acknowledged as I would not survive without the PIP.

34. I have been admitted to my local hospital the Royal Berkshire Hospital on several occasions for sepsis. There have been times when I am discharged without making a full recovery and I am quickly readmitted to hospital.

35. When I was recently admitted to hospital, I contracted COVID during my stay and I continue to have low oxygen levels and problems

breathing. I went to a sleep clinic to further investigate my breathing, but there has been no follow up.

36. It is very difficult trying to explain your story when you have been through so much medically. I am suffering an agonising slow death.

## **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

37. I have faced constant difficulty in obtaining adequate treatment, care and support and the medical profession has never got to the bottom of my ill health. I feel as though I have gone through hell from my experience at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. I am not receiving any treatment and no investigations are being made.

38. I made attempts to change doctors after the incident in 2004, but the other surgery stated that I was a problem person and refused to take me on as a patient.

39. Unfortunately, from my experience with the health profession, I have found that most doctors would rather label you as mental instead of carrying out a full investigation into your health and I have therefore lost faith in the NHS. I suffer with depression and that has always been on my medical records, but this is used as an excuse not to provide me with adequate treatment and care. From my own experience, I have found that you are crucified if you speak out and challenge the health profession.

40. Many of my health complaints are put down as MUPS – medically unexplained physical symptoms, rather than being fully investigated. I am not taken seriously when I explain that I am seriously unwell and one doctor even commented that whilst I am a lovely lady, that I am mad.

41. I was sent across to Newham Hospital with a possible aortic dissection and realised that a do not resuscitate notice was placed upon my medical notes without my consent.
42. I have never been offered any counselling or psychological support in relation to a possible infection from the blood I received in 1975, but I was encouraged to participate in talking therapies to help with coming to terms with being disabled. The assistant psychologist I saw was lovely, but I am no longer under her care.
43. I discovered that I was seen 3 times by an individual claiming to be a doctor at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. This was confirmed to be the case by the General Medical Council, but they have more or less brushed the issue aside. I have been unable to pursue this because of my ill health.
44. Between January and February 2019, I had an appointment at the Emmer Green Surgery and I have not seen a GP since. They are fully aware that I have difficulty in walking, but refuse to come out and see me at home despite being seriously unwell. Consequently, I have been left in chronic pain for 4 years and it has not been sorted. I do get very upset that I have been neglected in this way.
45. Recently a Nursing Sister came out to check my legs and consequently a meeting was held at Emmer Green Surgery on 13 January 2023 and attended by a group of people, including a doctor whose name they cannot provide. It has been confirmed that I have an infection somewhere in my body and after three heavy doses of antibiotics, I am now being prescribed Oxycodone 10mg twice a day because of the unbearable pain.
46. When I was last discharged from hospital, I noticed on patient access that I am being monitored on for high-risk drugs. I do not know what that means and I feel that I am being experimented on.

## **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

47. I have never been informed about any financial assistance available to those affected by the contaminated blood scandal, so have never made an application for support.

## **Section 8. Other Issues**

48. I wanted my story to be known to the Infected Blood Inquiry so that the medical profession is fully aware of the consequences of their actions.

### **Exhibits**

49. I have shown the investigators a number of documents, they photographed 4 of them:

**WITN7585002** A form dated 18 Oct 2022 headed 'Hepatitis C Antibody Architect' which shows Hepatitis C antibody test as N/A and Hep B surface antibody level as Abnormal. This form was printed from my Patient Access online portal.

**WITN7585003** A form dated 18 Oct 2022 headed 'Hepatitis B Surface Antigen' which shows SH-antigen (hepatitis B) test as N/A and Hepatitis B Core antibody lev as N/A. This form was printed from my Patient Access online portal.

**WITN7585004** A damaged piece of paper from the National Blood Transfusion Service in my name showing a date of test as 07/05/75 and showing me to be in need of a blood transfusion.

**WITN7585005** A form dated 18 Oct 2022 headed Hepatitis C Viral Load (known HVC). It shows Hepatitis C virus RNA assay as N/A. Also LOG(10) as N/A. This form was printed from my Patient Access online portal.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

**3/02/23**