

Witness Name: Jaqueline Mackie

Statement WITN7636001

Exhibit No. WITN7636002-009

Dated: 11.02.2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN WITNESS STATEMENT OF JAQUELINE MACKIE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of The Inquiry Rules 2006, dated 10 January 2023.

I, Jaqueline Mackie, will say as follows:-

Section 1 Introduction

1. My full name is Jacqueline Anne Mackie and I was born on GRO-C 1957 in Germany and I am now 65. I have two daughters, Lauren, who was born on GRO-C 1983 and Kayley who was born on GRO-C 1986. I was married to Mr Mackie on GRO-C 1983 for 3 years and I am now divorced. Currently I live in GRO-C at an address that is known to the Inquiry.
2. My father was a Brigadier in the army, CBE former ADC to the Queen and he passed away on GRO-C 2023. I worked for Reed Employment for 6 years and became a manager. I then set up my own business in secretarial services, librarian and bookkeeping for architects, barristers and geophysical consultants. I worked until I was 37 when rheumatoid arthritis stopped me working. This was in 1994.

3. I intend to speak about how I became infected with hepatitis C (HCV). In particular how I came to be infected, the nature of this illness in so much as how it affected me, the treatment I received and its impact upon my life.

Section 2 How Infected

4. At the age of 17 i was given a lippy's loop coil to help control my periods, which should never have been given to me as a woman who had not yet borne a child. This resulted in a serious infection and scarred my womb leaving pits and a highly vascular womb lining.
5. I gave birth to my daughter Lauren in 1983 at and the consultant was named The consultant, in removing the placenta decided to pull it and in so doing some remained inside of me (i suspect which could be related to the damage caused by the coil). I told the hospital I felt unwell and they informed me that as I had just had a baby my womb was contracting which was the likely cause of me feeling unwell.
6. 11 days after I gave birth I had a secondary post-partum haemorrhage and my local GP Dr Blake James rushed to my flat in as I was bleeding profusely. Dr Blake James saved my life as he gave me multiple clotting agent injections.
7. My veins had collapsed and I remember Dr Blake shouted to the ambulance crew that I needed to have urgent treatment to save my life. In the ambulance they could not find a vein to put the blood in and it was terrifying as I was going in and out of consciousness.

8. In hospital I remember doctors shouting and they gave me an Evacuation of Retained Products of Conception (ERPC). I had a blood transfusion with multiple units of blood being given to me, following which I was in hospital for some time.
9. In 1986 i gave birth to my second daughter at Queen Marys hospital, a specific request as i did not want to return to [GRO-D] after the poor maternity care i received there. Queen Marys maternity team were much more competent and kept me in hospital in case of a further haemorrhage, because the placenta was removed incomplete again. They kept me on a drip of antibiotics as a precaution.
10. In the mid 1990s I had a radical hysterectomy and salpingo-oophorectomy at Queen Mary hospital in Roehampton and had a second haemorrhage when I needed to have a further blood transfusion.
11. I was diagnosed with HCV on 14 January 2022 by Dr [GRO-D] at [GRO-D] which can be seen in the letter I produce as Exhibit WITN7636002. I believe this is a result of the blood transfusion I had in 1983.
12. I have never taken intravenous drugs, I do not have any tattoos and did not lead a promiscuous sexual life. Therefore I only see the blood transfusion as the cause of my HCV.

Section 3 Other Infections

13. I do not have any other infections apart from HCV that I am aware of at this time.

Section 4 Consent

14. I was never told there was a risk of infection when I was given blood transfusions in the 1980s.

Section 5 Impact

15. I was exhausted during the 1980s and 1990s which I attributed to having to bring up two young daughters and trying to remain in work at the same time. Financially it was very difficult.
16. I was exhausted during the 2000s and I was told by doctors that this was due to my medication for rheumatoid arthritis which I had been diagnosed with in 1994.
17. I found it difficult bringing up my daughters on my own and had an au pair or nannies to support me, however, I recall times when I would cry in my bedroom due to feeling so tired and unable to be there for my daughters.
18. I suffered bouts of depression due to feeling so unwell and unable to cope which in turn lead me to have suicidal thoughts. I actually tried to commit suicide on four separate occasions. Each time using tablets, fortunately I did not require hospitalisation.
19. During the last 10-15 years I have suffered from what I would describe as brain fog and since 2020 my train of thought during conversation has got worse so it

has become difficult for others to follow what I am saying which I have found infuriating. I continually have falls and feel dizzy which i attribute to the toxicity in my blood due to the HCV virus. My liver function is dramatically reduced due to the liver cirrhosis, the recent fibroscan score at St Georges Hospital in Tooting showed my result to be 57.5 (it should be between 2 and 7).

20. I have never been an alcohol drinker and especially since my first pregnancy have hardly touched a drop of alcohol. However on the occasions I have been to hospitals I have been repeatedly asked how much I drink. An example of this is in the letter from Dr [GRO-D] Consultant Gastroenterologist at [GRO-D] Hospital to Mr [GRO-D] Consultant Surgeon, Exhibit WITN7636003. I find this extremely frustrating.
21. As can be seen from a letter dated 16 July 2013 which is Exhibit WITN7636004 I have suffered from chronic polyarthralgia, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic back pain, fibromyalgia, vitamin D deficiency, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, recurrent UTIs, increased alkaline phosphatase and I had to have a left knee meniscectomy, subtotal synovectomy and a spinal discectomy. I attribute these problems to having HCV since the 1980s which I acquired from the blood transfusions I received. Specifically the rheumatoid arthritis and polyarthralgia are auto-immune diseases which are frequently encountered as extrahepatic manifestations of HCV. In addition to this i have also been hospitalised with pneumonia twice since 2011 with streptococcal infections, in short my immune system is shot and has left me extremely vulnerable to infections.
22. My quality of life has been seriously affected, especially during the recent COVID pandemic, leaving me fearing for my life. I cannot risk seeing friends and family in case i catch any coughs, colds or infections from them, albeit unknowingly. I am on a continuously rotating prescription of 3 different antibiotics to fight any infections, which in turn reduces the likelihood of antibiotics being able to fight any serious infections in the future.

23. In 2016 I had to buy a wheelchair due to the mobility difficulties I have suffered from as a result of having chronic back pain. I am fuming that I have been suffering for so many years and there was a failure to diagnose the primary cause of my condition until 2022.

Section 6 Treatment / Care / Support

24. On 17 January 2020 at [GRO-D] Mr [GRO-D] [GRO-D] mentioned my cirrhotic liver in a letter to Dr Gandhi. This can be seen in the letter, Exhibit WITN7636005
25. On 11 February 2020 at [GRO-D] Mr [GRO-D] [GRO-D] raised the issue that I could have cirrhosis of the liver in a letter to Dr Gandhi, my local GP. This can be seen as Exhibit WITN7636006
26. On 24 September 2021 at [GRO-D] Dr [GRO-D] [GRO-D] raised that I had probable cirrhosis of the liver in a letter to Professor Marina Botto at Hammersmith hospital. This can be seen as Exhibit WITN7636007
27. I was diagnosed with HCV only in late 2022 which I find unbelievable especially considering [GRO-D] was aware I could have cirrhosis of the liver since 2020 and that the Public Inquiry into Infected blood has been running since 2018. They failed to try to investigate the source of my HCV despite being aware of the likelihood of me being given infected blood in the 1980's.
28. I only had a referral following HCV diagnosis in 2021 which can be seen in the letter to Dr Botto, the Consultant Rheumatologist, from Dr [GRO-D] Exhibit

WITN7636008. Even here there is a suggestion that I might have acquired the HCV from the Rheumatoid Arthritis medication I received, Methotrexate. It is not until November 2022 that there is an acknowledgement in the letter from the Hepatology nurse specialist, Nick Tatman, that the most likely route of acquisition of the HCV is the blood transfusion in 1983. It is further identified as HCV, genotype 2. This letter is identified as Exhibit WITN7636009.

29. I had bereavement care in 2018 and had psychological treatment at Richmond. I am still on antidepressants now. I have had leukaemia for the last 16 years and have blood tests for this.

30. At Hammersmith Hospital they found clustering at the top of my spine and I have regular back injections for my spine at [GRO-D] Hospital with [GRO-D] [GRO-D] Pain Management Consultant.

31. I have diabetes and I also have medication for my diabetes which I have to take on a regular basis.

32. I have not commenced treatment for HCV yet due to my father passing away on 6 January 2023. The treatment is due to start on 15 February 2023 and will be a combination of 2 drugs Sofosbuvir & Velpatasvir (1 tablet a day for 12 weeks).

33. It was the hepatitis C Trust who made me aware of the Infected Blood Inquiry and I was not informed about the Inquiry by any hospital I attended.

Section 7 Financial Assistance

34. I received disability living allowance and subsequently Personal Independence Payment after I stopped working due to my rheumatoid arthritis. My husband did not pay me any child maintenance.
35. As I was only diagnosed with HCV in 2022 I have never received any financial support from the Skipton Fund or MacFarlane Trust. I will now apply to the England Infected Blood Support Scheme for the financial support and hopefully the £100,000 compensation.

Section 8 Other Issues

36. I want to know why I was not diagnosed with HCV before 2022 as hospitals would have been aware of the Infected Blood Inquiry since 2018 and the possibility of being given infected blood for a lot longer. I feel I have unnecessarily suffered as a result of the failure to diagnose my HCV.

Statement Of Truth

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated:

11th February 2023