



Witness Name: David Milne  
Statement No.: WITN0084001  
Exhibits: **WITN0084002 - 5**  
Dated: 31 October 2018

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID MILNE**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5 October 2018. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, David Milne, will say as follows: -

#### **Introduction**

1. My name is David Milne. My date of birth and address are known to the inquiry. I am single and retired. I intend to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C via blood transfusion. In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment received and the impact it had on me and my life.

#### **How Infected**

2. On Monday 3 June 1991 I was feeling unwell and my sister took me to see my GP. I had been having black stools for about a month. The GP checked my blood pressure and told me I had to go to Ninewells Hospital straight away; if I did not go now then I would not make it to the morning.
  - 2.1. I went to the hospital that evening. The hospital was waiting for me with a wheelchair. I had been at work all day and I was in agony. About three or four hours after I got to hospital I began to feel warm. I was kept in hospital Monday through to Friday 7 June 1991.

#### **Infected Blood Inquiry**

Fleetbank House, 1st Floor, 2-6 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AE

[contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk)

Freephone 08081691377

- 2.2. The hospital diagnosed me with a duodenal ulcer and said I was losing blood. They didn't operate on me, but they did blood transfusions and gave me tablets. I was given a blood transfusion of approximately 2 or 3 units and that seemed to clear the ulcer up. The next day I was transferred to a ward and taken down for an endoscopy. By Friday they said I could go home. I was off work for a fortnight altogether.
- 2.3. I have never had any other blood transfusions. I have not had any tattoos or piercings and I have never taken intravenous drugs. I had no health issues and was fit and healthy up until the ulcer.
- 2.4. In or around 1991 I was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and I started taking medication for it.
- 2.5. In 2013 I went to see my GP for a routine diabetes appointment. As part of that, the GP took a blood test and ran a Hepatitis C check on it. I received a phone call from my GP asking me to come down to the surgery. When I got to the surgery they told me that I had Hepatitis C and they would be in touch with Ninewells Hospital. I had no idea what Hepatitis C was. The GP did not give me any advice, they just referred me to Ninewells.
- 2.6. About 2-3 days later Ninewells Hospital told me to come in and see a doctor. The treatment and advice at Ninewells Hospital was very good. The liver clinic was excellent, although I never had any liver problems myself.
- 2.7. The doctors at Ninewells Hospital told me they could treat me with injections for the Hepatitis C; I don't recall the medication they used. These were weekly injections and I injected myself at home. After 12 weeks I went back and they told me that this treatment had failed. They told me that I could start another treatment, but that I would need to wait a year for the injections to wear off first.
- 2.8. In 2015 I started the new treatment, a tablet called Ribavirin. I went to the chemist every Monday morning to get a week's supply at a time, and I took one large tablet and some other little tablets each day, but I can't remember what the little tablets were called. After 2-3 weeks they reduced the little tablets to 2 a day alongside the big tablet. After 3-4 weeks they reduced the little tablet to 1 a day alongside the big tablet. Then they stopped the little tablet altogether. I had to take the big tablet for 12 weeks.
- 2.9. I got a letter in the post in January 2016 saying that I was now clear of Hepatitis C but that I had cirrhosis. My liver was a little bit contaminated by the Hepatitis C. When I went for check-ups the nurse showed me the readings that they took when they tested the cirrhosis; the value was going down, it was getting better. I do not have any problems with my liver now.

### Other Infections

3. As far as I am aware I have not had any other infections as a result of being given infected blood.

### Consent

4. I do not believe that I was tested or treated without my knowledge or consent. I am happy with the way I have been treated.

### Impact

5. In terms of the physical effects of being infected with Hepatitis C, I did not really have any issues. I did not know I was infected and my infection was only detected when my diabetes was being checked.
  - 5.1. I do have some other health issues but as far as I am aware they are not related to the Hepatitis C. In addition to type 2 diabetes I also have a lazy left kidney that operates at 25% function; this has been an issue since approximately 2014. I also have COPD, which I was diagnosed with in approximately 2011.
  - 5.2. I did develop cirrhosis of the liver, but this has improved with treatment and I no longer have any issues with my liver. I do not know how bad the cirrhosis was before it started to get better. My GP surgery continues to check my liver through blood tests.
  - 5.3. I was given two treatments for Hepatitis C; the injections when I was first diagnosed in 2013, and a course of tablets in 2015. The injections caused some unpleasant side effects; I could not lift my arms above my head, I blacked out on one occasion when I got up too quickly, and I was wobbly on my feet now and again. Once I stopped taking the injections the side effects went away. I did not have any side effects at all from the Ribavirin tablets.
  - 5.4. The Hepatitis C did not really affect my life that much; I was already retired by the time it was diagnosed and I had not had any problems whilst I was working. It did not affect my education as I did not intend to go back into education. Financially, it did not really affect me. All of my siblings knew I had Hepatitis C, I did not feel I had to keep it from them. They did not treat me any differently when they found out.
  - 5.5. In 2018 I took part in a clinical review into the impacts of Hepatitis C. A working group compiled a report for the Scottish Government which was published in July 2018.

## Treatment/Care/Support

6. I have not had any difficulties in accessing treatments, medical or dental care. I feel I have been given good service since I found out about the Hepatitis C. When I was going through the weekly injections I was under BUPA. I don't know how or why I had BUPA as I didn't pay for it, but I would get a nurse from BUPA call every two weeks and they gave me some moisturising cream. I also had a social worker come round once per month, which was arranged by the hospital.
- 6.1. I was never offered any counselling and nor did I ask for any, I just got on with it.

The investigators have taken a series of 4 photographs, which are exhibited as follows:

- WITN0084002** My hospital admission dated 3.6.91  
**WITN0084003** The front page of a clinical review I was recently asked to take part in dated July 2018  
**WITN0084004** Page 16 of the clinical review, showing those medical personnel taking part.  
**WITN0084005** A letter of thanks received in relation to the clinical review

## Financial Assistance

7. My doctor at Ninewells recommended the Skipton Fund to me and the hospital sent off my application for me. I was given £20,000 at first and then another £30,000. I do not get any monthly payments for Hepatitis C. Last November I got £1000 from SIBSS for my heating allowance. I have never chased the Skipton Fund or SIBSS to see if I will get paid, they just automatically pay me.
- 7.1. To apply for the money I think I had to phone them up and then send them some papers, but the hospital helped me apply. The Skipton Fund asked me for my medical records relating to treatment with NHS blood or blood products prior to September 1991. Besides getting medical records, I just had to give the Skipton Fund my bank details; they did not impose any conditions for getting the money.
- 7.2. I have not been in touch with any other trusts or funds.

**Other Issues**

8. I would like to say that I am quite happy with the way I have been treated, everyone has been great.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 31-10-2019