

Witness Name: B Haddock  
Statement No: WITN1260001  
Exhibits:WITN1260002  
Dated: November 2018

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF BRENDA HADDOCK

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I, Brenda Haddock will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Brenda Haddock, DOB [GRO-C]1949 and I live at [GRO-C]  
[GRO-C] Birmingham, [GRO-C] with my husband, Peter.
2. I am the mother of Andrew Haddock who was born on [GRO-C]1972 and died on 14.10.1996 after contracting HIV and Hepatitis C from contaminated blood products. A copy of his death certificate is exhibited "WITN1260002". The cause of death was recorded as 1(a) Severe Haemophilia A. Hepatitis C +tve, Cirrhosis of Liver (b) Hepatic Failure.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to Andrew's full medical records which I believe have been destroyed because of the period of time since his death.
4. Where dates are referred to in this statement and I have not had access to medical records those dates are recorded to the best of my knowledge given the passage of time.

## Section 2. How infected

5. Andrew was diagnosed with severe haemophilia A from birth. GRO-C  
GRO-C
6. When he was very young we took him to the Birmingham Children's Hospital for treatment with Cryoprecipitate, where he was under the care of Dr Frank Hill. When Factor VIII became available his treatment was switched to Factor VIII.
7. When Andrew was 10 or 11 he was moved onto Armour Factor VIII. I remember Dr Hill telling us that some children were having reactions to this product. However he told us it was nothing to worry about and we should just keep an eye on Andrew. I cannot recall when this was but I suspect it was in the early 1980s. It was certainly before he was moved onto home treatment.
8. After using Armour, Andrew had an anaphylactic shock and I had to rush him to hospital. This had never happened to him before. He was given some anti-histamines and a prescription for Piriton which he was told to take when he was given Factor VIII.
9. Not long after this we were called for a meeting at the Children's' Hospital, where they addressed the rumours in the press regarding HIV. We were told categorically by Dr Hill that the boys would be better off continuing to take the Factor VIII treatment and that the Hospital would not be stopping anyone's treatment.
10. When Andrew was around 12 years old, took him to the Hospital for a tooth extraction. I was given his records to hold whilst we waited. Right at the front of his records it said that Andrew was HIV positive.
11. We knew there was a possibility of infection as it had been in the news but the fact that I simply read it in Andrew's medical records was a complete shock to me.

12. When I discussed this with Andrew, he informed me that Dr Hill had already told him about his diagnosis. He was only 12 at the time and Dr Hill had spoken to him without either parent being present.
13. It was not uncommon for Dr Hill to discourage me from going in to Andrew's appointments when he went to the clinic.
14. It is absolutely appalling to me that my young son was told he was HIV positive without his parents being present. He was not equipped to deal with information of such magnitude when vulnerable and alone.
15. The Hospital never provided us with much information regarding Andrew's infection and most of the information we did know we had to find out through our own research.
16. Andrew told my husband that Dr Hill told him he would never be able to have a girlfriend or get married.
17. Finding out that Andrew had been dealing with the news of his diagnosis alone shed new light on the recent change in his behaviour as it was just before I found out he was HIV positive that he became withdrawn and stopped trying at school. Up until then he had done well at school and we were told he was clever.
18. A few years later, Andrew received a letter from the Hospital informing him that he was Hepatitis C positive. I can still remember passing the letter over to him. There was never a prior discussion regarding this possibility and Hepatitis had never been mentioned to him or us before. This news absolutely floored Andrew and he sank into a depression.
19. I went to the appointment regarding Andrew's Hepatitis C alone as he couldn't face going. They refused to tell me much because Andrew wasn't present at the meeting and by then he was over 16 and his care had transferred to the

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. The doctor tried to reassure me and tell me that it didn't necessarily mean that Andrew would get worse. I cannot recall which of the liver doctors were present at that meeting.

20. When first given the treatment, Factor VIII was sold to us as something very exciting and new. We were told it was revolutionary and would help Andrew to live a normal life. We were not informed of any risks involved with using the product.

21. I was also never given any information as to the risks I faced when I was administering the blood products to Andrew when he had home treatment. I was only provided with a thin pair of gloves. I was not given any information about risk that I faced from injecting Andrew.

### **Section 3. Other infections**

22. I was never made aware of any other infections that Andrew had been exposed to.

### **Section 4. Consent**

23. Neither Andrew nor I were informed that he was tested for Hepatitis C or HIV.

24. I did not consent to Andrew being tested when he was a child.

25. It is appalling that Andrew was told about his HIV diagnosis when he was a child without his parents being present. If we had been there we would have asked the doctors questions. Andrew was a child and would not have known what information to ask for.

### **Section 5. Impact**

26. Andrew completely changed after being informed of his diagnosis. Andrew was a very sociable and funny boy, and just wanted to be out with his friends.

After being told about his condition he became very worried about people finding out. He was withdrawn and very negative about life because he could no longer see a future for himself.

27. Andrew became very depressed. He stopped trying at school as there was no point working hard for a good education when he had a death sentence on his head. He would have terrible mood swings and become aggressive, punching walls and doors. It was mentally draining as parents. We felt we were walking on eggshells all of the time and when we heard his key turn in the door we didn't know what sort of mood he would be in.

28. He was diagnosed at a time when the stigma surrounding HIV was atrocious; there were adverts on the TV and there was a very hostile atmosphere. This meant that Andrew was unable to tell any of his friends; he wouldn't even tell people that he was a haemophiliac in case people put two and two together. My husband and I were also told not to tell anyone by his doctors. Andrew was also very clear that he did not want us to tell anyone. We were worried that he would be shunned – there had been stories in the press about children being shunned at school. It was very difficult for us because we didn't have an outlet for our feelings or anyone to talk to. We all lived in fear of people finding out.

29. Andrew struggled but managed to finish school, before going on a couple of Youth Opportunity Schemes. My husband also managed to help Andrew get some small jobs, however he was unable to settle into anything he done as he was so scared about people finding out about his condition.

30. Andrew's depression got worse as he got older, to the point where he was threatening suicide. This was not helped by the fact we frequently went to the funerals of haemophiliac boys he knew from the Hospital. He constantly wondered if he would be next and it was very difficult to try to lift his mood and give him a positive attitude. He was eventually prescribed anti-depressants by his GP.

31. This was all a huge strain on us as a family, especially as we had no one to turn to. We also have a daughter who was 15 when Andrew died, and although she obviously knew something was wrong we tried to shelter her from it all where possible. She is now married to Andrew Evans, the founder of the Tainted Blood support group.
32. Andrew's health started to slowly deteriorate when he was around 18 years old. Andrew started to become more tired and was having severe nose bleeds. He also had hallucinations. On one occasion we were driving back up the motorway and he was talking about seeing aliens landing. We had to take him to the hospital where he was admitted. On one occasion he was kept on the psychiatric ward overnight. I cannot recall if he was formally sectioned.
33. After one of these episodes we were called to a meeting at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with our GP and that was the first time I remember being told that Andrew was "terminally" ill.
34. One morning, when Andrew had been in hospital for a while following hallucinations and other health issues, my husband called to explain that he was planning on going up to Liverpool for work that day and asked how Andrew was doing. They didn't tell us anything was wrong and simply said he was comfortable. A few hours after this I had a call from the hospital to say that if we wanted to see him, we better hurry up because he only had half an hour to live.
35. I was on my way to pick up my mother to take her to the hospital and my husband was in Liverpool when I received that call, which meant we were both unable to get to the hospital before Andrew passed away. If they had given us adequate information that day, I would have been there with him.
36. I was able to see Andrew's body at the hospital although my husband was never given that opportunity. We also couldn't see him at the undertakers because of his HIV status..

37. Andrew is not the only person to be infected in my family. My cousin was also a haemophiliac and was one of the first to die from AIDs after contracting HIV from contaminated blood products.

38. We also felt the financial impact of Andrew's infection as I was forced to give up work in order to take Andrew to his numerous appointments.

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

39. Andrew never received any treatment for HIV. The anti viral drugs were still in the early stages and he was not given anything.

40. He also didn't receive any treatment for the Hepatitis C.

41. Andrew was never offered counselling from the hospital when it was clearly something that could have benefitted him. The only support available was a social worker who worked for the hospital, although she was very ineffective and not good at talking to the boys.

42. I was also never offered counselling, and the only support we received was from the parents of other infected boys.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

43. Andrew received a lump sum of £20,000 from the MacFarlane Trust. We were part of the 1991 Litigation for which we had to sign a waiver. We were warned if one person didn't sign the waiver, none of the boys would receive the payment. We were also told those infected would struggle to receive benefits so we should take the money that was being offered. I felt that there was no other option than to sign the waiver. I signed on Andrew's behalf because he was under 18 years old.

44. Andrew also received monthly payments from them up until he died, although these payments were not a lot.

45. He didn't receive any other grants or assistance from the Trust.

46. When Andrew passed away, we received £1000 from the Trust to help cover some of the funeral costs.

47. We only heard about the Skipton fund in the last 10 years. After applying, we received the Stage One payment of £25,000. We later received another payment of £50,000 as Andrew had developed Cirrhosis. I felt numb receiving this money but felt like I had to take it for him.

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

48. We just want the truth to be told. I feel like the truth has just been swept under the carpet. I want to know who knew what, when they knew it and whether there was any action that could have been taken to avoid this tragedy.

### **Anonymity**

49. I do not want to be anonymous.

50. I do not want to give oral evidence at the Inquiry but I would be prepared to do so if the Inquiry feel it would be helpful.



**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed..... GRO-C .....

Dated 3 - 12 - 2018.