

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SIMON HAMILTON

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry rules 2006 dated 12th December 2018. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, Simon Hamilton, will say as follows:-

1. **Introduction**

1. I do not wish to make any changes to this section of my statement.

2. **How Infected**

1. I would like to state that since viewing my medical records chronology it has come to my attention that my medical records pre-1976 cannot be accounted for. I find this quite shocking considering the records pre-1976 would have contained key information as to when I was diagnosed with haemophilia and the treatment I had for my haemophilia as a child. In the 1970s, I had a road traffic accident and in a separate event during that period whilst taking part in a school cross country race I was knocked down crossing the road during the race. The fall resulted in a bleed that was quite serious. There is no record of

this in my medical records as the notes appear to be missing and pre-date 1976.

2. I refer you to paragraph 12 of this section of my First Written Statement. In this paragraph I discuss being told that I was infected with hepatitis C at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. I have since received a chronology of my medical records. In the chronology it states that I was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 1990. I did not find out that I had hepatitis C until 1994 when myself and my brother Nigel attended the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast. I refer to Exhibit WITN2339003, this is a copy of my medical records chronology. I have since looked at the physical copy of my medical records, I refer to Exhibit WITN2339004. This Exhibit shows a test result from 08/10/1990 and highlights that medical professionals had seen that I was hepatitis C positive 4 years prior to when I was actually informed in 1994.
3. I refer to paragraph 12 of this section of my First Written Statement. It is stated that I found out I had hepatitis C in 1995/1996. From viewing my medical records chronology it is stated that this was in 1994. I believe it was 1994, after looking at the chronology.
4. I refer again to paragraph 12 of this section of my First Written Statement. My medical records chronology states in an entry dated 18th April 1994 that I was 'very worried' after hearing I had hepatitis C. I am quite a placid person so for medical professionals to notice that I appeared worried shows that I did appear distressed upon hearing this news.

3. Other infections

1. I would like to make an addition to this section of my First Written Statement. In 2014 I had a brain haemorrhage. Following the brain haemorrhage, I was later told by Dr Gary Benson that the bleed on the brain may have been a

result of the Interferon, Viravirin and Ribavirin treatment I had been receiving for my hepatitis C.

2. In my First Written Statement I failed to mention that I have been told that I fall into a 'high risk' category for vCJD. Annually, I have an endoscopy and every time I have one I am informed that I fall into the high risk category for vCJD.
3. It was first discovered in 2010 by Consultant Hepatologist & Gastroenterologist Dr [GRO-D] that I had liver cirrhosis. I refer to Exhibit WITN2339005, this is a letter dated 23rd April 2010 from Dr [GRO-D] addressed to Dr Gary Benson. The letter states that Dr [GRO-D] had 'no doubt' that I had liver cirrhosis. The results of the fibroscan discussed in the letter were so high that a liver biopsy was not required to confirm the diagnosis.

4. Consent

1. Since viewing my medical records I came across an entry which stated that I had been 'HTLV III tested' on the 7th June 1985. I refer to Exhibit WITN2339006 which shows the entry I am referring to. I am now aware that this is a test for HIV. Therefore I can confirm from viewing my records that I was tested for the HIV virus without my consent.

5. Impact

1. I refer to paragraph 3 of this section of my First Written Statement. My medical records chronology states that I was offered counselling in 1995. Any counselling I received was merely a chat and nothing more. I am now receiving counselling and have found this very helpful. I have no recollection of being offered counselling until only a few years ago. I was not offered counselling in 1995, contrary to what is stated in my medical records chronology.

2. I would like to add that my medical records chronology states that my liver was found to be 'cirrhotic' in 2007. Therefore I find it quite shocking when looking at Exhibit WITN2339005 that I did not receive a diagnosis for the cirrhosis until 3 years later in 2010. In my First Written Statement I say that it was around 2012/2013 that I was diagnosed with cirrhosis, however after viewing my records I can recall that I was diagnosed in 2010.

6. **Treatment/Care Support**

1. Since viewing my medical records I am able to confirm that I received my first treatment for hepatitis C in 2010. Shown before me is Exhibit WITN2339007, the Exhibit refers to a letter dated 16th October 2018. The letter is from Dr Geraldine Carroll of the liver unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast addressed to Dr McKelvey. The letter sets out a brief overview of the liver problems I have encountered and treatments I have received. The first treatment I received was Interferon with Ribavirin which concluded in December 2010. I was then given a second course of treatment for my hepatitis C in 2013, this round of treatment consisted of Interferon with Ribavirin again and resulted in the virus clearing.

7. **Financial Assistance**

1. I do not wish to make any changes to this section of my statement.

8. **Other Issues**

1. I do not wish to make any changes to this section of my statement.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed...

GRO-C

Dated. 18th May 2019