

Witness Name: Brigid Campbell

Statement No. WITN2658001

Exhibits: **WITN2658002- WITN2658004**

Dated: 19th January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF BRIGID CAMPBELL

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

I, Brigid Campbell, will say as follows:-

1. Introduction

1. My name is Brigid Campbell. My date of birth is **GRO-C** 1973 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am a Pharmacist. I am the daughter

of Malachy Devlin. My father was born on the **GRO-C** 1934. He passed away on the 17th October 1990. My mother also sadly passed away in April 2015. Therefore, I am making a statement on behalf of my late father in order to tell his story.

2. How Infected

1. My late father had severe Haemophilia A. I now know that he had life long bleeding problems and periodically had to be hospitalised. He commenced home treatment in the late 1970's and I can recall him administering this at home.
2. He suffered joint damage due to a late diagnosis and repeated bleeds. This caused him to have restricted knee mobility. He walked with the aid of crutches and sometimes used a wheelchair for longer distances. He was an extremely determined man who strived to make sure that his condition did not hold him back.
3. In the 1970's, haemophiliacs began to be given commercial Factor VIII material to use as treatment.
4. My father was under the care of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. His Consultant was Dr. Elizabeth Mayne, who was a Consultant Haematologist and Director of the Northern Ireland Haemophilia Centre.
5. I can recall my father had a very serious road traffic accident in October 1979. As it was a serious accident he had to receive a lot of Factor VIII at that time.
6. The duration of his hospital admission was over a month. He had a broken leg and was wheelchair bound for a few months.

7. In 1983 he had to be admitted as he had developed a pseudotumour. He had prolonged treatment for life threatening bleeding associated with this.
8. I have seen a medical legal report, prepared by Dr. Mayne dated 8th November 1989 and a copy of that report is exhibited WITN2658002. This gives a detailed history of my late father's condition and treatment through the year.
9. The report also refers to the fact that he was treated for the pseudotumour in October 1983 until the tumour burst. He was treated with regular Factor VIII.
10. Dr. Mayne's report states (page 12) that my father was one of a number of haemophiliac sufferers who were tested for AIDS/HIV.
11. It was found that his last negative sample was 4th February 1983 and his first positive sample was 10th January 1984. It was the view of Dr. Mayne in her aforesaid medical legal report, that my father must have been infected in 1983.
12. On the 17th October 1985, he was sent a letter stating, "you will be glad to know, that you became HIV positive sometime between February 1983 to October 1983, we have no sample between those dates, but I can imagine that you became positive sometime during the Summer of 1983". A copy of that letter is exhibited at WITN2658003". I find the use of the phrase 'glad to know' extraordinary. I am shocked that my father was informed of having an infectious and life threatening condition 2 years after it was detected. I am appalled such traumatic and life changing news was communicated via a letter in the post.

3. Other Infections

1. In addition to contracting HIV my father was also infected with Hepatitis C and possibly Hepatitis B as a result of infected blood products.

4. **Consent**

1. At this distance in time, I am not aware my father was treated or tested without his knowledge or consent. I do not believe he could have been given adequate or full information about any risks associated with the use of Factor VIII or such blood products at the time they were known to cause infection to users.
2. I am not aware that he was treated or tested for the purpose of research.

5. **Impact**

1. As stated above, my father suffered from the condition of haemophilia and had mobility difficulties. However, he showed great determination and never let this slow him down.
2. When I was living at home and growing up, we lived in a rural area. My father owned and farmed 40 acres of land.
3. He worked hard initially as a farmer before starting his own business – Ardboe Farm Machinery. I recall the business starting off small, selling spare parts for farming equipment and tools. The business grew quickly as there was a big demand for this service in our rural community and beyond. As the business expanded he redeveloped 4 farm buildings to facilitate stock of a wider range of farming machinery, additional services and employees. The business was very successful, it became his main occupation and he let out the land to local farmers. He was always busy, working in the business daily or travelling to source new stock. He also purchased and renovated a

property nearby but unfortunately died before this was completed. He was successful and always motivated to take on new projects.

4. Outside of work, he loved all sport and in particular Gaelic football. He was unable to play because of his condition, but was an avid follower of our local team Ardboe and the Tyrone county team. I have many memories of going to football matches with him. The bigger games were a family day out. We would travel to Co. Monaghan for the Ulster final or spend the weekend in Dublin if there was an All-Ireland final in Croke Park.
5. I now know that he received a diagnosis of HIV in 1985, and he died some five years later.
6. My father never spoke to me about his diagnosis, but I do recall my mother explaining the situation to me around 1989. At that time, I was studying for A Levels in school and I think that my mother was of the view that I would be able to understand the situation. I remember her telling me that we had to take care not to share a glass my dad had drank from and not to ask him for a drink from his bottle of orange if we were out in the car.
7. At that time very little was known about the HIV AIDS virus, it was a new and frightening disease with no cure and receiving a lot of media attention.
8. My dad was ill at home for a short time before he was admitted to hospital and I helped my mum in caring for him. I remember he was bed-bound and coughing up blood. I recall the ambulance arriving to our home to take my dad to hospital. My mum and I travelled in the ambulance with him to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. He was admitted to ward 22 and was there for approximately one month until he died. I exhibit at WITN2658004 a copy of the death certificate which indicates the cause of death as 1 (a) Septicaemia (b) Chest Infection

11 Haemophilic Pseudotumour. I recall after a few days he received a special hospital bed with an air mattress to make him more comfortable. He was in a separate room on the ward and the nurses put on gloves and aprons each time before entering the room – this was different from previous hospital visits.

9. The Undertaker, who was also a family friend, was contacted by the hospital doctor some days before my dad died. The phone call was to advise him that he had HIV/AIDS and therefore restrictions on how the body could be handled.

10. It is tradition in Northern Ireland to have a wake in the house for two days and usually, an open coffin. For my father, there was an agreement reached with the hospital that the coffin could be open for one day only, with hands covered up and a net covering his face.

11. Due to the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS my mother did not discuss the nature of my father's death and I understand that the Undertaker did not tell anyone why he had to take such measures.

12. I adored my dad, I was very much a "daddy's girl" and was of course devastated by his death. It was my 18th birthday 8 months after he died. I really felt my father's absence from this and all the important milestones in my life that followed.

13. When I got married in 2005 my younger brother gave me away.

14. Family life was never the same again.

15. My mother was suddenly left on her own, managing 2 teenage children, a home, a family business and a farm. My mother and father were both proud pioneers meaning they had taken a lifelong pledge to abstain from alcohol. The pressure of managing the situation was too stressful for my mother and she began to drink. There was one

particular incident when she crashed my dad's car in the driveway because she had been drinking. This was a shock to me when I returned home that evening. I was concerned about the situation but didn't know how best to help.

16. My mother tried to keep the business going by employing someone else to manage it but this didn't work out and she sold the business shortly after.

17. She also sold the house and the farm, moving into a smaller house that my father had been renovating before his death.

18. She lived life as a widow.

19. I know my mother was also tested for HIV but I'm not certain of when.

6. **Treatment/Care/Support**

1. I am not aware of my father facing any obstacles in obtaining treatment. It is my belief that he did not benefit from any counselling with psychological support.

2. Further, I do not believe my mother had any such support.

3. I did not have any such support.

7. **Financial Assistance**

1. My mother received a payment from Macfarlane trust and the Skipton Fund.

8. **Other Issues**

1. I believe my mother was involved in a Court action around 1991. I can recall her going to a Court hearing in Belfast. I recall her being upset because she was asked, "when did he develop AIDS?". She told me that it was the first time it was said that he had died of HIV/AIDS. I believe a sum of money was paid into Court for me, which I was then able to access when I was a student.

2. **GRO-C** also has severe Haemophilia A. I feel very supported by the extent of care provided by an exceptional team of healthcare professionals both at the **GRO-C** Hospital and the Northern Ireland Haemophilia centre. As **GRO-C** progresses through his life it is a reminder for me of how much trust my father placed in the health service for his quality of life. While inadequacies of health provision which have contributed to the death of my father are in the past I am naturally concerned that current and future healthcare for **GRO-C** is not compromised.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 19th January 2019