

Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry Witness Statement

Statement of **MENZIES/Lianne**

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Lianne Duffy Menzies, and my date of birth is Personal Data
PD My details are known to The Inquiry. I currently work in my friend's snack van.
2. I have met today with witness statement takers from the Covid 19 Inquiry team and am happy to provide a statement about my experiences of the pandemic. I have provided them with access to my meeting notes with Aamer Anwar & Co Solicitors and I am happy that the content be included to assist in forming my statement.
3. I am currently being represented by Aamer Anwar & Co Solicitors and I am happy to proceed with the interview without a solicitor being present.
4. I have signed the consent form provided. I am happy for my information to appear within reports and published. I would provide evidence at any hearing if required.

The Person to be spoken of (Jamie Campbell McMorran)

5. I wish to give a statement to the Inquiry about my husband. His name is James (Jamie) Campbell McMorran; I will refer to him in my statement as Jamie. Jamie was 38 years old, and he was born on the PD
PD Jamie was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2019. Jamie died from Covid on the 8th of April 2020; he was in the Monklands Hospital Airdrie.
6. Just before Jamie died, we were married by the hospital chaplain. We are not officially married in the eyes of the law as there was no time before he died; we have been together for 18 years.
7. I am Jamie's next of kin because he has lost both his mum and dad.
8. Our doctor is at the Medwyn Medical Practice in Carnwath which comes under NHS Lanarkshire.

Pre-Pandemic.

9. In 2018 we went to Alcludia. Jamie came off a water slide and said he had broken his right rib. I said behave and go and see a doctor, which he did but he hadn't broken a rib.

10. In the December 2018 he coughed and “popped” something. I told him to see a doctor and get some bloods. It was his right side, and I wasn’t happy about it. His fingers by that time had all broken out. He went down to the doctors, and he came back with an antibiotic.
11. Later in December I took him to the hospital because he couldn’t feel anything below the waist. The hospital just did a prostate test but nothing else.
12. On Christmas Day I found him lying on his back screaming “I’ve broke my back I’ve broke my back. Then in January he had been out at the moto races with the wee boy, and something popped. When he arrived home, he couldn’t walk, his right his right hip was hurting.
13. I put him in the car and took him to Livingston St John’s Hospital where they gave him oral morph. They gave him an Xray, I thought excellent. His back had cracked with a myeloma; they thought that it was tumour on his lung. The hospital sent him for a biopsy in Edinburgh. They discovered that he had 16 centimetres missing from his pelvis and he had multiple myelomas.
14. In early 2019 they sent his bloods away and confirmed that he had blood cancer and not bone cancer. They immediately started him on bone marrow treatment.
15. Jamie began receiving radiotherapy, having been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

Covid 19/Transfer to and from hospital

16. I could see Covid coming in other countries since January but didn’t think it would come here.
17. On the 26th of February 2020 he attended a routine appointment at Wishaw General Hospital and they sent him to St Andrews Hospice for pain management. There was no PPE or hand gel. They weren’t routinely testing for Covid at that time, so he wasn’t tested in Wishaw General or the Hospice. He was only in the hospice for about eight hours when they realised there was problems with his picc line; he had a picc line because his veins had collapsed because of the therapies, they couldn’t get blood. It had gotten infected, and he had a temperature.
18. They transferred Jamie to Monklands Hospital in Airdrie, and he was admitted to the haematology ward. At that time visiting was still allowed and there was no PPE in use. Staff only used an apron if they were treating a patient. You had to sanitise your hands before entering the patient’s rooms. They did regular swabs of Jamie’s throat and bum (every

week) in the ward to check for hospital acquired infection, but not for Covid in particular. Nothing came up on any of the swabs they done. Jamie wasn't bothered about infections he just wanted pain relief.

19. When they removed the picc line a few days later they realised it was a blood clot and not an abscess. They managed to get Jamie's temperature back under control.
20. I had kept my son off school since January 2020 as we were doing are best to stay free of any infections to protect Jamie; he had no immunity.
21. On 12th March 2020 Jamie was transferred to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) Glasgow transplant ward because his light chain levels were so high. If they could get his light chains down to 240, he would qualify for a transplant. The light chains went wild up to 6000.
22. We had a lot of hope for the future in that he would get his own stem cells.
23. He had to have total body irradiation (TBI) at the Beatson at Gartnavel Hospital. He was put into a single room. There was no testing before he was transferred to the QEUH. There was also no PPE in the QUEH, the staff used an apron and gloves if treating patients. You had to sanitise your hands like the Monklands. Jamie was in QEUH for a few days. There were no restrictions on visiting at that time.
24. On 14th March 2020 they did a Covid test as Jamie was being transferred to Gartnavel Hospital for pain relief before his radiotherapy. The test result was negative and on the 15th of March he was transferred to Gartnavel by taxi. There were no visitors allowed in Gartnavel, so I am not able to comment on the PPE etc. Jamie was subsequently transferred to the Beatson for TBI.
25. I later found out from the news that there were no visitors to the Gartnavel because they had Covid on the wards. Bearing in mind I was just going from home to the hospital without going anywhere else, I wouldn't have brought Covid into the hospital.
26. I was getting no information from either the QEUH or the Gartnavel other than from Jamie on his phone.
27. The first attempt failed so Jamie had to go back to the ward for more pain relief. The second attempt was a success. Jamie was transferred (by taxi) back to QEUH around 5pm. There was a cancer nurse in the taxi with him. Jamie had to wear a mask and gloves in the taxi. I met them at the QEUH and settled Jamie back into his room. When he got back there was no apparent sign of PPE being worn; it was just sanitizing your hands before you go in the room and put a pinny on.

28. On the 17th of March 2020 Jamie was given his stem cell re-introduction successfully. By this time there was only one visitor allowed in at the QEUH, so I let my son go in. He had to wear gloves and an apron. Both me and my son had been isolating (he hadn't been to school) since January to try and keep Jamie safe. I kept him off because of all the bugs and stuff and I knew what was coming up medically for Jamie. We were fighting for Jamie.
29. I was used to seeing Jamie every day when he was in hospital, I used to shower him and change his clothes. Jamie didn't want to be letting anyone else to do this for him. He was going stir crazy because I couldn't go in.
30. Jamie was being transferred back to the Monklands Hospital on 19th March 2020 by taxi; there was no wearing of PPE. I don't know how Jamie was when he arrived back at the Monklands because by this time there was no visiting allowed at the hospital. Jamie had told me about no visiting, but it was confirmed when I rang the hospital. He wasn't tested before leaving the QEUH. I received a call on 20th March to say Jamie was getting home and I could go and get him around 5pm.
31. Jamie had free access to his mobile phone and would keep me updated with what was going on.
32. When I got there, I was told he had a temperature. The nurse said I shouldn't be taking him home. I told her I had been told to come and collect him. The sweat was pouring out of Jamie. We just assumed this was the effects of the radiotherapy and his treatment. They didn't test him before allowing him home. I wasn't told to wear a mask when I went in, just to sanitize my hands on entry. I never saw what the nurses were wearing.
33. We were in constant communication with the hospital because of his continued treatment. We discussed Covid and I was told to monitor his temperature.
34. The next day Jamie was complaining of a sore throat, and he had no appetite; he still had a temperature. These were things we were told that could happen after radiotherapy. A slight tickly sarcastic cough had also started but nothing like the cough that was been spoken about on the news at the time. We believed at this point that these were caused by the radiotherapy. The next day Jamie was only managing cold drinks and ice lollies as his throat was still sore. He was still coughing but not continuously.
35. My daughter came in with my granddaughter and he just wasn't himself.

PPE.

36. His temperature started to rise and became uncontrollable. I called the cancer nurse at Wishaw General Hospital, and she arranged for the district nurse to take bloods. She came out, she was only wearing a mask and a pinny.
37. Jamie's veins were collapsed due to the radiotherapy, and he was now dehydrated so the nurse could not get bloods. She took his temperature which was 37.3. I was told it would be safer to keep him at home and try to manage his temperature.
38. The next day another nurse NR came out to take blood and she was totally covered in PPE, fully suited up. We had masks which I had bought.
39. When we spoke to the cancer nurse again the next day Jamie's temp was between 38 and 40. She said she would prefer Jamie to go into Wishaw General Hospital as she thought he was showing signs of Covid.
40. Jamie refused as he thought it was just the effects of the radiotherapy and he didn't want to go back into hospital; he had just spent the last three weeks there. She agreed to send the district nurse back out to try to get bloods again. On 26th March the district nurse came back out and was able to get bloods, Jamie's temperature was still high.
41. The next day Jamie woke up and felt much better. The only thing troubling him was a bad bout of diarrhoea; he managed to eat something. When the McMillan cancer nurse called, Jamie had been sleeping so when he spoke to her, he was a bit delirious and breathing heavy. He gave me the phone to talk to the nurse and I said that I thought Jamie was suffering from sepsis which he has had before. I took his temperature, and it was 39.8.
42. The nurse booked an ambulance for him to be taken into Wishaw General Hospital as he was delirious. We had lots of phone calls from nurses, doctors, and ambulance people; it was wild. I wasn't too bothered I had seen him have sepsis before and we were up for the fight. I wasn't allowed to go with him.
43. The ambulance crew were horrid, I didn't know if it was the fear of what was going on. They were barking orders at me, huffing, and puffing and telling me to stand back. They wouldn't allow my son to give his dad a hug. I knew they needed to take his medication with him which they asked me for, and I went and chapped the ambulance door. The female gave me lots of attitude and I said who do you think you are talking to. There was no visiting allowed at that time so my only contact with Jamie was by his telephone.

DNACPR (DNR)

44. They asked Jamie five times to sign a DNR, a do not resuscitate document and he kept telling them no. He said they would need to speak to me about it. The following day (28th March) they asked him again and it was five times in total that they asked him to sign a DNR.
45. When he first went to Wishaw Hospital, they asked him. When he went for a chest Xray they asked him. When they were taking him from A and E to the ward, they asked him. There were two other occasions and he repeatedly said they would need to speak to me.
46. Jamie got upset enough about this that he called me; he wanted me to reassure him that I wouldn't agree to it. He was terrified. They didn't mention the DNR when I was on the phone, but Jamie said they had asked him about it again. He never signed one and there were never any conversations about DNR before.

Contracting Covid.

47. They eventually tested him for Covid. They had done five tests in the space of a few hours. Jamie was initially told that the result was negative but then the doctor came round to see him later that day and said he had tested positive. He said the doctor thought he was over the worst of it. I rang the hospital to check, and they confirmed he had tested positive.
48. They asked me if me and my son had any symptoms. My son wasn't well by this point; he had a sore head and a major cough and couldn't get out of bed. I also had flu like symptoms. They didn't mention the DNR when I was on the phone, but Jamie said they had asked him about it again.
49. I had no taste or smell and my lungs felt like they were filled with concrete. I was told we would need to isolate for 14 days. I knew Jamie wouldn't survive if they had to put him on machines or intubated him. The hospital said if we put him on it, he would not survive. I thought they would try but he just had the thing up his nose.
50. My friend works in the hospital, and she said that there had been e-mails and a leaflet sent out to say who would and wouldn't get treatment so I knew Jamie wouldn't get it. I have a screenshot of the leaflet of the guidelines given to medical staff if the Inquiry requires it. If you were elderly or had underlying health conditions, you wouldn't get it. I really don't know how they could decide this. Jamie had cancer and he had no chance, even though he got the Covid whilst he was in hospital.

51. Between the 30th of March and 4th April 2020 Jamie's condition varied. He wasn't eating, he had no appetite. The first morning he choked on a bit of toast they had given him. I had been passing in ice lollies etc for him. My friend who worked into the hospital would take things in. The nurses on the ward loved him and they would get things from the canteen for him.
52. I was never updated by the hospital, the last call I had with the staff looking after Jamie was on the Sunday when I rang to confirm his Covid test result. I spoke with Jamie on the phone, and he filled me in. They were giving him antibiotics, steroids, and a blood transfusion.
53. On 4th April Jamie facetimed me; he looked really well. He was up and dressed. Jamie's oxygen must have been reduced because I had no trouble hearing him. He was laughing and joking away. I thought he must have been getting better and I would get him home soon. I asked if he was getting out and he said he would ask the doctor.
54. The following day he wasn't worth a button, I couldn't get any sense out of him. He was calling me and my daughter but not saying anything. He then facetimed and he looked horrendous.
55. I got a call about 5.30pm from the hospital to ask me if I could go down as they thought Jamie could do with a 'pick me up.' I said I would be there as soon as possible. I told her I still had symptoms, but she said it was ok I could wear a mask and apron. Jamie was in a single room, but he was lying all twisted in the bed. When I arrived at the hospital, I was given an apron off a roll, and I put a mask and gloves on; the mask was thick and tied at the back. The nurses were dressed similarly but they had visors, gloves, and aprons; his ward was full of Covid.
56. The nurse said she would let the doctor know I was there. I wasn't aware the doctor wanted to see me. I gave Jamie some water and managed to get him sitting up; he came round a bit. I don't think they had been hydrating him. Because of his TBI his hair was falling out and it was on his pillow. There was hair on the mouth sponge which was how they were giving him water.

Bereavement.

57. When the doctor came in, she said they had done an Xray on Jamie's lungs, and they weren't coping. She asked if I understood that Jamie was going to die. I said absolutely not as he was sitting up in bed joking yesterday. I asked if he could be transferred to ICU and put on a ventilator. She said no because sedating and intubating him would kill him. I asked why he hadn't been offered this when he arrived at the hospital eight days before; he was only 38 years old. She said that

putting him into a coma would kill him. They had done an Xray that morning his lungs were filled with clots. I understand why they didn't do it then, but why didn't they do it when he first came in.

58. I came home from the hospital completely confused. I couldn't get in to see Jamie the next day as he wasn't great. I had a video call, but he wasn't really making any sense, he seemed really confused. I think his oxygen had been turned up.
59. I got a call the next day to go back into the hospital. I met Jamie's cancer doctor when I was waiting to go into the ward. She was devastated to hear that he had Covid. She said his blood work was brilliant and he had been doing so well. When I got in to see Jamie, he was very agitated and spaced out.
60. They gave Jamie midazolam to help him sleep. I went home but asked them to phone me and I would come straight back as I didn't want him to be alone.
61. I got a call the next morning (8th April 2020) to ask me to go back to the hospital. They said, 'it was time.' When I arrived, there were five nurses in the room with him in case I didn't arrive in time.
62. Jamie was in and out of consciousness most of that day; he was scared because he was having trouble breathing. He kept grabbing onto the bed rails frantically and shouting to me as he struggled to breath. I had to get the nurses to give him something to calm him. The palliative care team came in and asked if I would like them to give him something to make him more comfortable; I agreed. They rotated the midazolam with morphine.
63. Jamie passed away at 11.29pm that night. Before Jamie passed away, we got married. He had been asking me and up until he became really ill, I had always said no not until you are better. I thought it was the last thing I could have done for him. He knew what was going on, a nurse took a video, and they got rings from the lost and found.
64. My mum got the chaplain, and we were able to get married in the hospital. My mum was allowed to be in with Jamie for an hour. Covid was noted as the cause of death on Jamie's death certificate. We weren't allowed to view Jamie's body after he passed away.
65. We had to arrange most of the funeral over the phone. The funeral director was great with us. There was only ten people allowed at the funeral, including myself. My friend's boy plays the bagpipes, so he piped Jamie into the crematorium. We had to sit in households once inside the crematorium. That meant my aunt was sitting herself. We weren't

allowed any flowers. We did our best in the circumstances, but it wasn't the send-off Jamie deserved. I had to hang Jamie's suit on the fence for the funeral director [] NR [] who knew my family to take it and put it into the coffin.

66. Jamie didn't have anything in place for his funeral. He was the main provider in the house. Although he had cancer his work for Virgin Media had been great with us. I was the executor of Jamie's estate. The funeral had to be paid out of his bank account.

Impact.

67. Me and Jamie had been together for 18 years. We had a very good relationship. We have a daughter and son. Jamie just lived for his weans. They were devastated, I was devastated.
68. My daughter has high anxiety and still cries to this day.
69. My son is autistic and is struggling. We were supposed to be getting counselling. We also have a granddaughter. She was Jamie's wee best pal. She was like his wee nurse, she looked after him; she is really struggling. She saw someone walking with sticks the other day and she said she cannot remember grandad without sticks. She was crying at school recently after a child lost a grandparent.
70. I'm not one for crying I feel that I have to be there for my family.

Lessons Learned.

71. Why wasn't tests rolled out earlier for everyone. We weren't tested when we had it. I could have gone out and passed that on. It was his fault that we caught, and it wasn't his fault that he got it.
72. Why didn't we shut down earlier. Nicola did more than Boris. He has a house full of folk and he was partying. Australia was far more successful than us, look what they did.

Hopes for The Inquiry

73. Accountability from someone, I should have, would have, could have.
74. I haven't made any formal complaints to the hospital. I just want to know what happened and why it was allowed to happen. Everyone has a right to life. I did everything I could to keep Jamie safe at home. His outlook with the cancer was good.

Signed.....

Date.....