

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No. WITN2527001

Dated: 22nd November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry rules 2006 dated 12th December 2019. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, **GRO-B** will say as follows:-

1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B** My date of birth is the **GRO-B** and my address is known to the Inquiry.

2. I am single and currently live with my mum, **GRO-B** **GRO-B** who has also made a statement to the Inquiry under witness number **GRO-B** I have worked as a **GRO-B** for the last 5 to 6 years.

3. I intend to speak about my stepfather **GRO-B** who is a haemophiliac and became infected with hepatitis C, through treatment with infected blood products during the **GRO-B**

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2. **How affected**

1. I would describe my relationship with my stepfather as relatively close, as we lived in the same house, but I often felt that he was a bit distant with me, and that we had never formed a 'close' bond.
2. My stepfather was diagnosed with severe haemophilia as an infant and was frequently in and out of hospital from then on.
3. I am unsure of what treatment or blood products he received for his haemophilia, but more detail about this can be found from his statement to the Inquiry GRO-B
4. I believe that my stepfather became infected with hepatitis C through Factor VIII treatment which he self-administered. I am not aware of the circumstances as to how he was informed of his diagnosis, but I believe that he describes this in his witness statement to the Inquiry.
5. I recall that when I was approximately GRO-B years old, my mother sat me down and explained to me about my stepfather's illness.
6. I am not aware of what information or advice was provided to him about the risks of being exposed to infection.

3. **Other Infections**

1. I am not aware that my stepfather was infected with anything else other than hepatitis C.

4. **Consent**

1. I do not have any information to add to this section – please refer to my stepfather's witness statement for further detail.

5. **Impact**

1. My mother, and my stepfather began a relationship when I was [GRO-B] years old and married in [GRO-B]. I remember that my stepfather could often be snappy with me and would suffer low mood swings and depression, which I believe was caused by the aggressive treatment for his hepatitis C. The physical impact of the treatment was mainly tiredness and lethargy.
2. I feel upset and annoyed that my stepfather became infected with hepatitis C, because if this had not happened to him, maybe we would have formed a closer relationship and bonded more.
3. My stepfather was not interested in doing the usual things that fathers did with their children, such as playing football, going for walks, or going on holidays because he was so unwell. These are all things that could possibly have brought us closer together.
4. Although my stepfather was always able to work, it would make him extremely tired at the end of the working day and so he lacked the energy to play with me or my [GRO-B]. He initially worked as a [GRO-B] and then as a self-employed [GRO-B].
5. My stepfather was private about his haemophilia and was extremely reluctant to share his diagnosis with anyone outside the family.
6. I wouldn't say that my stepfather's illness affected my performance at school but as I have explained above, it had a huge impact on my life outside school.

6. **Treatment/Care/Support**

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1. I am unable to provide information on my stepfather's treatment, care and support but I believe that he provides information regarding this in his witness statement to the Inquiry.

7. **Financial Assistance**

1. I am unable to provide information concerning financial assistance but I believe that my stepfather provides information regarding this in his witness statement to the Inquiry.

8. **Other Issues**

1. I have nothing to add to this section.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated... 22 11 22