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Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No.: WITN0143002

Exhibits: None

Dated: 21st September 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I provide this statement to clarify some matters raised within my written statement (WITN0143001), dated 20th December 2018.

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

1. At paragraph 67 of my original statement it states that sometime during my treatment, at an appointment with my consultant, Mr Prince, I was informed of my eligibility for the second stage Skipton Fund payment.
2. This appointment with Mr Prince actually took place prior to my second round of treatment. I recall discussing the upcoming treatment that had been made available. I was so desperate for the virus to be gone, despite it having what I believed to be a minimal effect on my liver.
3. Moreover, Mr Prince did not explain what it meant to be eligible for the stage two payments. As I was leaving, he said something that, at the time, I considered strange: "GRO-B we'll have to think about putting you forward for the second stage payments". I thought that he was offering me a financial kindness; I had no idea that eligibility for the

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stage two payments was dependent on the deterioration of my health. However, as Mr Prince didn't say anything else about it, I soon forgot about the comment.

4. Admittedly, since being diagnosed, I have been a bit ignorant about the payment schemes and haven't ever gone out of my way to find out about the Skipton Fund or its eligibility criteria.
5. At paragraph 68 of my statement, I stated that it was a few weeks later that my specialist nurse asked me whether I had received my second stage payment. This was actually at my last appointment, post-completing my 12-week treatment.
6. I recall on that occasion, my appointment was with a specialist nurse of Thai origin. She congratulated me on clearing the virus. We then engaged in some casual conversation – it was that insignificant that I don't really remember it.
7. We must, however, have spoken about finances because she said to me, *'Of course you get the second stage payment'*. I replied, *'No, I don't'*. As far as I was aware, I only had stage 1 fibrosis of the liver, and although I did not know what the criteria were, I assumed that as I had received the Stage 1 payment with stage 1 fibrosis, I did not meet the criteria for any further payment. To this day, I am unsure of what the criteria are for second stage payments.
8. This was when she said, 'You do have cirrhosis of the liver. Has Mr Prince not told you?' She did not say anything else. She did not explain the level of cirrhosis or what that meant either for my health, or for my eligibility for the Stage 2 payment. I do, however, remember her being very keen that I get the payment. I recall she gave me a phone number and might have given me a form, although I am not sure of this.

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9. It was a bittersweet moment. I was delighted to have cleared the virus, but now had to deal with this new development.
10. Although I am not motivated by money, if I had been made aware that my liver's health had deteriorated, I would have applied for the Stage 2 payment earlier.
11. At paragraph 71 of my first written statement, it states that I instigated a meeting with Dr [GRO-D] at Manchester Royal Infirmary. Rather, this was another routine HCV appointment. I had encountered Dr [GRO-] a few times previously at other routine appointments.
12. Learning of the deterioration of my health in the way that I did, made me very angry. I was angry prior to this appointment and was instantly upset when I went in. I didn't want to lose my temper, so I simply asked, *'So why was I never told that things had changed with my health?'* He asked me what I meant, to which I replied, *'I was at Stage 1 fibrosis and at some point I became Stage 4, so why didn't anyone tell me?'*
13. Upon me saying this, he became visibly uncomfortable. I think he must have been realising that I hadn't been informed. He asked, *'Didn't your specialist nurse tell you?'* He did not ask me if my consultant had informed me, as is stated at paragraph 72 of my original statement. In my opinion, I do not think he would have wanted to blame his superior.
14. At paragraph 72 of my statement, I also stated that when I was asked if I had been informed by someone, I said "No". By this, I meant that at no point had a consultant sat me down and explained that my liver health had deteriorated from Stage 1 to Stage 4. I had only had off the cuff comments made by Mr Prince and the specialist nurse.
15. In hindsight, I now recall discussing my HCV with the specialist nurses during routine appointments. At each appointment they would inform

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me of my viral load. It may well be that they also mentioned the deterioration in my health, but not in such a way that a layperson would understand. I certainly do not recall it ever being explained to me properly.

16. At paragraph 76 of my statement, I stated that being ignored by Mr Prince had exasperated my low self-esteem issues. By this, I meant that although doctors are very clever people, they are meant to treat patients as a whole. However, after seeing them for a while, it seems to me as if you just become another condition to them and not a person.

17. I was so upset at not being informed of the deterioration of my health, that I felt I could no longer be seen at Manchester Royal Infirmary and requested that my primary health care be transferred to Wythenshawe Hospital.

18. At paragraph 95 of my statement, I stated, "*as soon as I found out that my cirrhosis was at stage 4 rather than stage 1, I began the process of claiming a second stage payment from the Skipton Fund*". When I did this, I had to deal with Mr Prince and Dr GRO-D once again, which was a farce.

19. I assumed that there would be a back payment for the amount of time needed to complete the application. However, this was not the case and as such, the eight months it took for Dr GRO-D to complete the three application questions were not remunerated.

20. I would also like to add that I do not believe there had been any kind of skulduggery going on with the doctors. I think there were missed opportunities to tell me of my health status and that they each must have assumed that the other had sat down and told me about the deterioration in my health.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B

Dated 21, 9, 2019