

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1702001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: June 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

**Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is GRO-B My date of birth is the GRO-B My address is GRO-B
2. My father GRO-B: F (D.O.B GRO-B), died on GRO-B after being infected with Hepatitis C and HIV through contaminated blood products.
3. My mother, GRO-B, has also produced a witness statement 'WITN1776001' for the Inquiry
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

**Section 2. How infected**

# ANONYMOUS

5. I would like to refer to my mother's written statement 'WITN1776001' in relation to this section of my statement.

## Section 3. Other Infections

6. I would like to refer to my mother's written statement 'WITN1776001' in relation to this section of my statement.

## Section 4. Consent

7. I would like to refer to my mother's written statement 'WITN1776001' in relation to this section of my statement.

## Section 5. Impact of the Infection

8. I was told about my father's HIV infection in or around 1986. I was  or  years old at the time.

9. The abiding memory I have of that time regarding my father's infection was that the BBC had started to broadcast the 'AIDS: Don't Die of Ignorance' campaign regularly on TV. This short film showed a large black grave stone with the word AIDS chiseled into it, slowly falling to the ground with a large reverberant bang. Leaving many viewers, myself included, in little doubt that to become infected with HIV, as I now knew my father to be, was a death sentence. I remember sitting in the lounge of our old house watching TV with my dad when the AIDS infomercial came on TV. Neither of us said anything, it felt deeply unpleasant. That period in 1986/7 was the beginning of a very long, fearful and stressful period of family life. I think we all felt at a loss and struggled to cope with it all.

10. I was told in no uncertain terms that I was not to tell anyone about my father's infection as there had been stories of people panicking and reacting inhumanely and violently to individuals who had contracted the virus. I remember stories of people being chased from their homes. At the time there

## ANONYMOUS

was a lot of misinformation about the virus. People believed HIV could be transmitted via tooth brush or toilet seat contact. There was not much public information and people didn't know how it could be passed on. I remember worrying that Mum might also have contracted the virus from my father.

11. To the best of my knowledge none of the family members discussed the situation, it was something we did not talk about. We still haven't discussed it to this day, we have each dealt with what happened to my father in our own way.
12. Personally I found the whole ordeal a very isolating experience. My father who went from being a man who was always at work to someone who was frequently at home for long stretches fighting various infections and sundry health issues by way of the infection. My father was often, very understandably, angry about how his personal and work life had changed in light of his infection.
13. My father struggled with health issues due to his haemophilia for the majority of his life. The resilience he showed in dealing with these health issues growing up made him a very strong figure in our family, one who we all looked up to and respected. My father was the sole breadwinner for the family as we grew up but this role was taken from him as the illness worsened which affected my family financially.
14. After nursing my father through his illness and subsequent death my mother went on to re-train and find employment in the NHS. The strength, love and loyalty she showed to my father throughout his illness and eventual death I find extraordinary and inspiring to this day.
15. My father's illness and death has undoubtedly had a formative effect on my personality. I feel like I have missed the opportunity to have a father during some of the most important years of my life.

## ANONYMOUS

16. Life since he died has been challenging for the family in ways that are perhaps too complicated and personal to go into at any length. Needless to say losing my father, in the manner and at the time we did, has negatively impacted my family emotionally and financially ever since.

### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

17. I would like to refer to my mother's written statement 'WITN1776001' in relation to this section of my statement.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

18. I have not received any financial assistance in regards to my father.

19. I would like to refer to my mother's written statement 'WITN1776001' in relation to any additional information for this section of my statement.

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

20. I hope that this Inquiry into the infected blood scandal (with its cover ups, mysteries, often unpleasant political stonewalling and general air of indifference to suffering whenever the issue arose in parliament) will help bring some closure to those who have felt denied it for so long.

21. More personally, I would like for the Inquiry to provide us all with some sense that the suffering, loss and hardship that all those infected or affected in relation to contaminated blood have had to endure has been sincerely acknowledged.

22. There must be full disclosure explaining precisely how these events came about.

ANONYMOUS


Anonymity


23. I wish to remain anonymous.

24. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed  GRO-B

 GRO-B

Dated 26 June 2019