

07 JUN 2019

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement Number: WITN3276001

Exhibits: NONE

Dated:

**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 20 May 2019.

I, GRO-B will say as follows: -

**Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is GRO-B My date of birth is GRO-B 993 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am currently single and in employment.
2. I intend to speak about my dad's infection with HIV and Hepatitis C through the use of blood products. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.
3. I wish to remain anonymous as I have not discussed this with anybody apart from my mum.
4. I confirm that I have decided not to have a legal representative and that I am happy to provide the Inquiry team with a written statement.
5. My mum (W0145) and my uncle (GRO-B) have also provided written statements to the Inquiry.

**Section 2. How Affected**

6. My dad, GRO-B: F passed away in 2001 when I was 7 years old. As I was a child, I was not aware of very much at the time. It was only around 5 years ago, when I was 21 years old, that I found out what had actually happened; he had been infected with HIV and Hepatitis C.
  
7. My dad had Haemophilia A. I believe he was given a blood product called Factor VIII to treat his haemophilia, however this was contaminated with HIV and Hepatitis C. He received Factor VIII at the Manchester Royal Infirmary Hospital, but I am not aware of any dates he was given this blood product.

**Section 3. Other Infections**

8. My dad was infected with HIV as well as Hepatitis C. As far as I am aware, he was not infected with anything else.

**Section 4. Consent**

9. I am not aware of whether my dad gave his informed consent for treatment or tests to be carried out on him.

**Section 5. Impact**

10. Sadly I don't have a lot of happy memories that I can remember.
  
11. I think I was 5 years old when my mum told me that my dad started being really sick and spending lots of time in hospital.
  
12. I remember him having injections and he was in bed a lot as he couldn't walk properly; he used a walking stick a lot. I also remember going on holiday to Portugal with lots of family but we didn't do much as my dad was sick all the time and in a wheelchair.

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13. I am not aware of any treatment/s my dad had for his infections. I was not really aware whether he had any medical complications apart from having a bad knee which had to be amputated. It was all a bit of a blur, and that's all I remember about medical complications.
14. I didn't see lots of my dad when he was in hospital, it was just at the weekends. I don't think he even knew who I was sometimes and this upset me so I didn't go that much. It seemed like my dad was in hospital all the time as I remember we had to get picked up from school by my grandad and stay with him until mum got back from the hospital. I think she was there every day. My older sister and I never saw much of mum after school. She used to come back from the hospital just before bedtime and put us to bed. I felt alone without both parents around me. I was so young. I never knew what was wrong with dad, just that he was very poorly.
15. One of my childhood memories was of me playing in the hospital corridors. Towards the end of his life, when he was in a worsened state, I was spending more time with the doctors so that I could be protected from seeing everything.
16. The last memory I have of my dad when he was alive, was of the last night I saw him - he was not very lucid. He died in 2001. I remember being told that dad died but don't really remember much about it. I remember it being sad. I was 7 years old at the time.
17. My mum has since told me that I used to wet the bed after my dad's death and that I used to kiss the ceiling from my bunk bed every night.
18. My older sister was always there for me when I was sad but she too died when she was 19 years old from an epileptic seizure. However, the night before my dad passed away he insisted that she was told what was going on.
19. I have since been told by my mum that my older sister would get depressed about my dad's death saying that she kept wanting to be dead. This had a big impact on my mum because my sister was only 11 at the time. She has said

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that she could not cope with two children grieving at the same time which is why I was not told. However, my mum now says she regrets not having told me all of this sooner.

20. My mum only told me about 5 years ago, when I was around 21 years old, that my dad died of HIV and Hepatitis, otherwise I had no idea and I'm not sure if I ever wondered.
21. I only found out about my dad because the truth about the infected blood scandal started coming out and my mum felt that I was ready to know what had happened and why. Obviously, at such a young age it just felt that I had grown up all my childhood thinking that he had fallen ill because of a cut or something else and that he had generally bad knee problems. I started questioning whether something had happened at the hospital. However, when I found out what had actually happened I felt angry that it was due to something else other than his genetically inherited disorder.
22. When I found out about my dad, my mum also told me about my uncle, my dad's brother, that he too has Hepatitis.
23. My uncle found out 4 weeks ago that he has liver cancer due to hepatitis C (which went unnoticed for a prolonged period of time) and that it is terminal. I believe the hospital knew over a year ago and never told him. It makes me really angry as I am really close with his daughter, my cousin, and I hate that she is going through this too.
24. My cousin has a 1 year old child who also has haemophilia and I want to do this for them to avoid anything like this ever happening again. She is already losing her dad to hepatitis C because of what happened, and I obviously do not want her to lose her son. I also want to do it for my dad and get the justice that he deserves. He was robbed of his life and I was robbed of a life with a dad.
25. I feel angry that other than photographs, I have no detailed memories other than what I'm told. My grandad used to tell me lots about my dad as I used to go for tea once a week, but he too died 2 years ago.

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26. I grew up without a dad, feeling like he had somehow been stolen from me. Throughout my childhood I grew up thinking that he had died because of his haemophilia and the complications surrounding it. So when I found out the truth it made me mad. I'm angry that I didn't have what I should have had and my dad was taken from us. It has felt worse in the past couple of months because my uncle has been given a life sentence of a few months to live.
27. After my dad passed away, his mobility car was taken away from us. We had to get the bus to school, which I was not used to, while my mum tried to buy another car. Looking back on it all, I can laugh at some things but there are various memories that are still imbedded in me. For example, my grandad took on a bigger role by looking after us and providing for us.
28. My mum went from being in a happy marriage with two children to being just by herself. She was made to be independent, to bring up my sister and myself whilst also holding down a full-time job.
29. I feel like after my dad died, I was disconnected from the whole of my dad's extended family on a larger scale, because we were his children. I have not had anything to do with them since, and have therefore felt isolated from my extended family. I should have grown up with an extended family on the outside.

### Stigma

30. I have not suffered from any stigma as I have not discussed any of this with anybody else other than my mum.

### Education/work/financial effect

31. Finding out about my dad's infection has not had a direct impact on my education, work or finances.

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

32. I have had no counselling or psychological support to date in relation to my dad's infection.

**Section 7. Financial Assistance**

33. I have not been given any financial support nor am I aware of any financial assistance provided to my dad or mum.

**Section 8. Other issues**

34. There are no other issues I would like to discuss.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed 

GRO-B
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Dated 4/6/19 \_\_\_\_\_