

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No.: WITN2223022

Exhibits N/A

Dated: 17th August 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I am giving this supplementary statement further to my first statement dated the 14th January 2019.

1. As referred to in paragraph 22 of my first statement, thirteen years ago, in 2007, I had to undergo open heart surgery to have an aortic valve replaced. This was because the interferon treatment resulted in me developing septicaemia, which caused infective endocarditis.
2. In November 2019, my health began to decline again and by the Spring I tried to see my GP, however because of the Covid-19 lockdown, this originally did not occur. I ended up having to request that a full set of bloods was taken during lockdown and problems with my heart were then detected.
3. In July 2020, I had my aortic valve replaced again, because of the interferon treatment in 2005. I have now been advised by my doctors that they expect in approximately ten years' time, my aortic valve will need to be replaced again with further open heart surgery being required, unless the doctors can find another way to treat me. I now have this further complication that will need continual monitoring and treatment. I feel this is an important point to include in my evidence to

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the Inquiry. Recovery time is expected to be three to four months. The older I get, the more difficult and harder recovery will become. As a result of having two seizures during surgery, I have also had to surrender my driving licence and will not be able to apply to get it back until January 2021. As a result, my wife GRO-B, has had to take time off of her work to help/assist in my recovery.

4. With hindsight the septicaemia was caused by the interferon treatment, when I had to take the treatment the first time. I certainly wouldn't want to go through it again though. I remember being given a whole list of side effects that could result from taking interferon and I can remember most of them. I don't however remember being told that my heart could be affected. I am not sure this was a known side issue initially.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B

Dated Aug 17, 2020