

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN002397001

Dated: 27th January 2019

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 2018. 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 and address are known to the Inquiry.
2. I originally lived in **GRO-B** before moving to **GRO-B** in 1979. I worked at **GRO-B** for 15 years before retiring. I was diagnosed with haemophilia B as a child which I inherited from my paternal grandfather.
3. I found out I had been infected with hepatitis C (HCV) sometime between 1991 and 1992 as a result of receiving contaminated blood.

2. How Infected

1. I attended the Haemophilia Clinic at [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] from the 1960's until 1984. I was diagnosed with severe haemophilia B when I was 3 years old. My condition was treated with Factor 9 products over the years, including Benefix, Alprolix and other cryoprecipitate which I can't remember the name of. I also received heat treated products in [GRO-B] and later [GRO-B].
2. I moved to [GRO-B] in 1984. The main hospital I was assigned to was [GRO-B] Hospital in [GRO-B] but some of my treatment and care was received at [GRO-B]. The main product I was given from the 1980's onwards was Benefix. I can't recall the exact date, but I remember being told during a visit to [GRO-B] Hospital in 1982/83 that the doctors wanted to perform blood tests on me and I was not given a reason why. I assumed it was part of a routine check-up. It wasn't until they had the results that I was informed there was a potential contamination of blood products with HIV, for which I tested negative. I was frightened as I didn't quite understand what this meant and I was given no further information about infected blood products. I was married with a child at the time and both my wife and I were worried due to the stigma surrounding the whole situation as no one knew much about it. At that time no information was ever given to my wife and it was left to me to tell her about it and I got most of my information from the newspaper. It eventually died down and I forgot about it.
3. I was diagnosed with hepatitis C (HCV) in [GRO-B] Hospital sometime between 1991 and 1992. I can't remember the exact date but my wife and children were also tested at the time and we had a joint meeting where Dr [GRO-B] explained hepatitis C (HCV) to us. I was told the hepatitis C (HCV) infection was likely due to infected blood products but I can't recall any specific dates I would not have been given any as I was given numerous different blood products. I was on cryoprecipitate so I can only assume that is how I became infected. I can't recall being given much information about my illness and I know I wasn't given any written information. I was given little information

ANONYMOUS

about the risk of infection to others, but my family was tested for any signs of infection which was clear.

4. I felt at the time the information I was given was adequate. I was asked a number of times if I wanted to take part in an anti-viral treatment, but I refused due to the large number of side effects associated with it at the time and I would have had to take time off work. I have since had the treatment around 18 months ago in 2017 and my hepatitis C (HCV) has cleared up, but the long-term damage is unclear, and it could still come back. In hindsight, I am now unsure whether the information I was given at the time was adequate.

3. Other infections

1. I have never been told about any other infections except hepatitis C (HCV).

4. Consent

1. I feel that information should have been provided to me at the earliest opportunity and I feel that, with the HIV situation, information was definitely held back from me. I wasn't even told why my blood was being tested by the hospital until they had the results. I was only told that I had been tested when I was told that the test was negative and that I didn't have anything to worry about. I don't doubt that they handled the situation badly.

5. Impact

- 1. The most mental stress came from being tested for HIV. It was a new illness at the time and no one knew what it was about, but besides this I've never had any severe worries about my illness.
2. I have not had any severe physical effects, besides general stress. There have been some changes to my liver, but there have not been any significant changes to worry about. I don't think much about my illness, as I have suffered from haemophilia B since being a young child so I am used to having

ANONYMOUS

treatment and I don't see it as much of an issue. The hepatitis C (HCV) has never affected me in any way besides the knowledge that I have it. I do feel I have been lucky in that respect and even though it could have been worse I feel it is better for me to speak up about it rather than keep it quiet.

3. I have not had any further medical complications as a result of the hepatitis C (HCV) and it has not affected any medical or dental care besides being noted by the medical professional. The only time I can think of was when I had to have a heart operation and the time had to be changed so the equipment could be deep cleaned afterwards, but nothing else besides that. I am not aware of any other treatments which I could have received, except the anti-viral treatment I refused but have since received. I have participated in a research trial into long lasting Factor 9 products, which has reduced the amount of injections I have to take every year.
4. There has not been an effect on my private, family or social life. My ex-wife and I were concerned about the stigma when I was tested for HIV, as there was not much information available, but I have no concerns at this present time. There were also no educational, work or financial related effects caused by my illness. There was no impact caused to my family or anyone close to me.

6. Treatment/Care Support

1. I have had no difficulties in obtaining or accessing any other treatment.
2. I was never offered any psychological support or counselling of any kind by GRO-B Hospital in GRO-B I can't recall if I was offered by GRO-B Hospital, but it is unlikely.

7. Financial Assistance

1. I receive the monthly standard payment from The Macfarlane Trust. As I was infected by contaminated blood products, I receive the first stage payment. I

ANONYMOUS

was originally given a lump sum which I can't recall the amount of and a continuing annual payment, originally £3000 but this has since changed to the monthly payment. I did not apply myself; it was dealt with automatically by the Haemophilia Centre in GRO-B. I don't really remember but I think I must have signed something as I received a letter from the Macfarlane Trust in the post.

2. I did not suffer any difficulties or obstacles in obtaining financial assistance as it was handled by GRO-B Hospital. I am not aware of any other assistance which is available to me, except assistance if there are special circumstances. I don't feel like I have any, so I haven't applied for it to date.

8. Other Issues

1. I have not been involved in any earlier litigation as a result of the contaminated blood products. I do not have any documents which I think would be relevant to the inquiries investigation.

ANONYMOUS

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated.....

27/01/2019