

Witness Name: **GRO-B**  
Statement No: WITN2409001  
Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 is **GRO-B** and my address is known to the Inquiry.

#### 2. How Affected

1. My husband, **GRO-B: H**, was born on **GRO-B**. He and I were married for **GRO-B** and we have **GRO-B** together. **GRO-B: H** and I lived together at my current address from **GRO-B** until his death in **GRO-B**.
2. **H** worked at the **GRO-B** and he retired around the same time as I did in **GRO-B**.

3. My husband was diagnosed with severe Haemophilia A when he was a child and he had been receiving treatment for the condition ever since we met. He was treated in [GRO-B] in the [GRO-B] before being treated at the [GRO-B].
4. He was under the care of [GRO-B] for most of his life before [GRO-B] [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] took over at [GRO-B] Haemophilia Centre. [GRO-B] was fond of [GRO-B] and he was under his care until his death. He used to be back and forth to the Centre regularly, however, in the [GRO-B] he started to treat himself with blood products. He didn't need to go the Haemophilia Centre much after that, only for his regular check ups and to attend physiotherapy after a knee replacement.
5. I couldn't tell you when exactly [H] contracted HIV and Hepatitis C, since he was treating himself at home for a long time. I believe he contracted the illnesses from the blood product, Factor 8.
6. I remember Factor 8 being presented as if it was the next best thing. We trusted what [GRO-B] told us [H] and I were never ones to ask questions, people hung on every word the doctor said back in those days.
7. I remember at one point [H] having concerns about being infected but he was assured that he had nothing to worry about. [GRO-B] didn't warn [H] of the risks involved with using blood products, and I know this because [H] would have told me. [H] was told it would make him better.
8. I went with [H] to the hospital when they told him that he was infected, but I cannot remember when this was. In addition, I wasn't in the room when [H] was told of his condition, I sat in the waiting room as [H] wanted to go in alone so that I wouldn't get upset. He would often keep things from me to protect me.

9. I cannot be sure if he was informed immediately about his condition or whether it was some time after they were aware. It was such a long time ago and therefore difficult to remember dates and so on.
10. [H] certainly had his concerns about potentially having the virus and I believe he took preventative measures as belt and braces approach. [H] was having his bloods taken regularly so it is unlikely that he knew they were testing him for HIV.
11. We lived as normal a life as you could after being told of his condition. We both decided to get on with things so we just carried on. [H] was a determined soul and he refused to let his diagnosis hold him back or change his life in anyway.
12. We managed to do this up until [GRO-B] when [H] started to become ill. I noticed that he wasn't looking well and then other people started to notice too. I remember him losing an incredible amount of weight in a short space of time and he started to look yellow. It wasn't that he was gravely ill for a long period of time, he just looked it. He carried on as normal and therefore did not require any care from me at the time.
13. This went on for some months and then the doctor found an ulcer in [H]'s stomach. They took him in for surgery in [GRO-B] and he never woke up. It all happened quite suddenly.

### 3. Other infections

1. I am not aware that [H] had any other infections.

### 4. Consent

1. Since reading that the first positive result for HIV was on [GRO-B] and Hepatitis C on [GRO-B] I can only hope that the medical professionals were not aware of [H]'s condition when he raised his concerns and therefore did not withhold information from him regarding this.
2. [H] is unlikely to have known if they were testing him for any infection as his bloods were taken regularly due to his haemophilia.
3. I am also confident that had [H] known about the risks associated with taking blood products such as Factor 8, he would not have used them to treat his haemophilia and he would have sought alternative treatment.

#### 5. Impact

1. My husband's illness had an incredible impact on the family and it continues to this day. [H] and I decided to keep his diagnosis from family and friends and we didn't tell our [GRO-B] until the final months of his life. After [H]'s death his [GRO-B] requested to see his body at the chapel of rest, however, we could not grant [GRO-B] this opportunity due to the potential risks. The decision has caused a fracture in our relationship that remains to this day.
2. [H] and I were worried about the stigma associated with the virus. It was a relief in a way that [H] passed away with a stomach ulcer because we knew he would have been happy that it hid his illness on his death certificate. I continue to live in secrecy about [H]'s illness.

#### 6. Treatment/Care Support

1. To my knowledge [H] did not face any difficulties in obtaining treatment or support; the difficulty seemed to be in obtaining a diagnosis.

#### 7. Financial Assistance

1. After [H]'s diagnosis he was given a lump sum payment of £30,000 from the Macfarlane Trust. I do not remember when exactly this was, however, I do know that [H] was still alive at this time.
2. In addition, I was in receipt of £600 per month from the Skipton Fund, but this come to an end around two years ago when I received a lump sum payment of £40,000 from Skipton.

8. **Other Issues**

1. To my knowledge there are no other issues to state.

## Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated

10/04/2019