

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN2456001

Dated: 11th June 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** make this statement true to the best of my knowledge and belief and will say as follows: -

1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B** My date of birth is **GRO-B**
My address is **GRO-B**

2. I live at this address with my husband **GRO-B** and our **GRO-B**
GRO-B

3. I have been asked to give my version of how my father **GRO-B: F**
became infected with hepatitis C and HIV, which he contracted from
infected blood products in the **GRO-B**. In particular, the nature of his
illness and how this affected me, the treatment he received and the impact
it has had him, my family and me.

2. How Affected

1. My dad is a severe haemophiliac and requires prophylactic blood products to prevent bleeds. I understand his condition is Haemophilia A.
2. I believe my dad was infected with hepatitis C and HIV when he received contaminated blood products between GRO-B
3. No other family member has Haemophilia A.

3. Other infections

1. There is a possibility he has contracted CJD.

4. Consent

1. I am unsure whether consent was given as I didn't know about his condition until I was GRO-B years old.

5. Impact

1. I can remember my mam GRO-B telling me that my dad had contracted hepatitis C and HIV. I was GRO-B years old at the time. I broke down in tears.
2. Growing up my dad was always poorly. I knew he had haemophilia and my parents used his condition of haemophilia as a reason as to why he was so unwell. He was always very tired and his infection of hepatitis C was hidden from us.

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3. Since learning of my dad's illness I started to suffer with GRO-B and when I was about GRO-B years old, I applied for a GRO-B course and was then sent on a GRO-B course. After doing GRO-B I started to get very anxious, in fact I became obsessed that I may get contaminated. I had to stop. I accessed counselling and it was because of this that I realised it was down to my dad's illness that was the reason I suffer with GRO-B. I have never told my parents of my GRO-B nor do I ever want them to know as they will become very worried about me.
4. I work as a GRO-B in a GRO-B and there are things I cannot do such as handle blood and urine samples. This all stems from my dad being infected from contaminated blood.
5. I get very anxious after even touching door handles and get extreme irrational thoughts. I am constantly using anti bacterial products to clean my house and wash my hands. I worry that I may either contaminate someone or they will contaminate me. If I have to take my GRO-B anywhere where there is a public play area I will wash GRO-B hands after GRO-B has used equipment as I worry GRO-B may become unwell.
6. I get very anxious even when using the bathroom at my GRO-B particularly if there are any of GRO-B hanging about. I think I am going to get ill or I am going to make other people ill.
7. My GRO-B has an adverse effect on my husband as it makes his life more stressful.
8. If I see drops of blood it freaks me out, I start to panic and worry I may become unwell. I constantly worry I may cause someone else to be poorly too.

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9. I worry constantly about things going wrong. For example people dying or getting hurt. I am overcautious with safety and will constantly check I have locked the door and check the gas hasn't been left on.
10. As a child money was scarce. My dad had to retire early but I wasn't aware at the time the reason why. I think my parents struggled with finances as Mam only ever bought things that were on sale, however I don't feel that I missed out on anything.
11. My dad never discusses his illness and he certainly doesn't discuss it within the wider family network. I have only ever told my husband, best friend and the counsellor. My employers do know about my [GRO-B] but do not know why I suffer with it. It causes a lot of stress and anxiety for my parents. My dad is emotionally withdrawn and likes to keep to himself. His confidence has been knocked and he doesn't enjoy being in large groups.
12. My mam has always looked after my dad, as he was always ill. She qualified as a [GRO-B] later in life.
13. For many years my dad was preoccupied with his health and anxiety. I think this was his way of protecting us from knowing he had a very life changing disease.
14. I do not want my parents to see this statement, because I do not want them to know about my [GRO-B]

6. Treatment/Care Support

1. My dad has had treatment for hepatitis C twice. He was given interferon and after the second course it was cleared.

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2. I am not aware of what information and support my dad had from the hospital. I do know that we were part of a support group where we would have days out and food. A social worker would do things with us. I didn't know at the time what the group was for as I was a child. When my mam told me of my dad's illness she also reminded me of the support group and the reasons why we would go along.

7. Financial assistance

1. I do know my dad was awarded money from the Macfarlane Trust and Skipton Fund but I do not know much detail on this.

8. Other Issues

1. I would like to ask the inquiry why was this allowed to happen to my dad?

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Statement of Truth

I believe the facts stated and this witness statement are true.

Signed

GRO-B

Dated 11th June 2019