

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**
Statement No: WITN2505001
Dated: 9th April 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 is **GRO-B** and my address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I am **GRO-B** years of age. I live in the **GRO-B** not very far from the City of **GRO-B** I am married. I have a **GRO-B**
GRO-B
3. I am the youngest of a **GRO-B** My **GRO-B**
4. I had **GRO-B** brothers who **GRO-B** contracted HIV and Hepatitis C from contaminated blood and tragically died.

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5. First, there was my brother [GRO-B: B1] His date of birth was [GRO-B]
[GRO-B]
6. My [GRO-B] brother who tragically died was [GRO-B: B2] His date of birth was
[GRO-B] and he died on the [GRO-B]

2. How Affected

1. This statement is in respect of how my brother [B2] tragic death affected me.
2. [B2] suffered from severe Haemophilia A.
3. [B2] would sometimes use the local Hospital in [GRO-B] which is called
[GRO-B]
4. He was particularly poorly as a result of the Haemophilia and went to the [GRO-B] He would also go there for regular check-ups.
5. Over the years at the [GRO-B] he saw a number of Doctors and the principle one of his care was Doctor [GRO-B]
6. In the [GRO-B] as it was common practice at that time, to administer blood product Factor VIII. My parents were trained to administer it to him but he then learned to administer the Factor VIII to himself.
7. I now know from his medical records that he appears to have been diagnosed as HIV positive in [GRO-B]
8. It was not until many years later, in [GRO-B] that he was diagnosed with having Hepatitis C.
9. In respect of my brother [B1] he suffered from severe Haemophilia.

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10. I personally did not know that [B2] [B1] suffered from HIV or Hepatitis C.

11. I assumed they were poorly because of complications with his severe Haemophilia.

12. In respect of [B1] death I was only [GRO-B] years old at the time. I remember visiting him at hospital in [GRO-B] and he was wired up to machines. I recall being told he had a brain tumour. It wasn't until later years I that learned that he had died with the infections caused through contaminated blood products.

13. When [B2] had been hospitalised with the HIV infection in [GRO-B] I was told [GRO-B] some sort of brain tumour. I was not told about [GRO-B] having HIV.

14. I later learned that [GRO-B] my brothers had tragically died through contracting HIV and Hepatitis C through factor VIII. I think it was around [GRO-B] but I am not sure of exact date. My brother [GRO-B] asked me to come round for a chat to his house and this was when he disclosed this information to me. He wanted me to know as I was the only person within my family who didn't know.

3. Other infections

1. I do not know of [B2] [B1] having any infections other than HIV or Hepatitis C as a result of being given infected blood products.

4. Consent

1. I do believe my brothers were tested/treated without their consent or knowledge. I think they were used as guinea pigs before being told they had been infected with the viruses.

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2. On the [GRO-B] wrote to my parents suggesting the family should all be tested. It was arranged for all of them to travel to [GRO-B] as a whole family group to be tested.
3. It was understood that they testing the family to see if they were carriers of Haemophilia. There was no suggestion of any other reason. At this stage, nobody knew our brothers had HIV.
4. It was only years later, when we saw [B2] medical records that the family realised that they had been tested for HIV.
5. I of course was only a few months old at that time so I have no personal recollection of it, nor am I sure if I actually went with the family or not to be tested.

5. Impact

1. In respect of [B2] I never knew whilst he was alive that he was suffering HIV or Hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood.
2. I was aware that haemophilia played a big part in my brothers' daily lives. I knew how difficult childhood was for them and the rest of the family.
3. I completely understand my family tried to protect me by not telling me the full story until after [B2] had died.
4. What I recall from [B1] funeral was that he had a closed coffin. I thought this was a wish of his not to have it opened. I was only [GRO-B] years old at the time. I just remember being told he died of a brain tumour my family were at the hospital except for me, I stayed with a neighbour and I remember someone from my family coming to tell me

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that he had died but not sure who it was. I remember being extremely upset and sad.

5. I was a young woman when [B2] died so I remember his funeral vividly. He had a closed coffin, which was unusual. However, [B2] had told everyone in previous years, that is what he wanted. I just assumed that was his wish. I now know of course that he was aware it would have to be a closed coffin due to the fact he had HIV and Hepatitis C. He was clearly aware of his own mortality and sort of preparing a way for it in advance.
6. [B2] death had a big impact on me as I had regular, almost daily contact with him. Being the youngest in the family, I was still living at home, whereas my eldest siblings had all moved out.
7. When I was a teenager, I was often hanging around at his house. To my eyes, [B2] was friendly and more tolerant and less strict than my parents were. [B2] was very protective of me. There were several times in my teenage years he would cover for me when my parents asked any questions relating to where I had been or whether I been drinking when I had been out drinking with mates. As I got older, my tipple of choice was vodka and lemonade, which was the same as [B2]
8. It was in my routine, on the way home from work, to call into [B2] house. He lived in a housing association house not far from my parents. He shared it with his partner. I would pop in and have a cigarette with him and a general catch up.
9. On the day he died, I had a job interview in work which made me 30 minutes or so later than usual. Therefore, I thought I better go straight home as my mother would have the dinner on the table.
10. [B2] dropped dead suddenly about [GRO-B]
He was found by his partner, I believe she had been out and found

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him on her return. Therefore, if I had called around as usual it would have been me who found him. I find that a scary thought. It often enters my mind. I constantly rehearse in my mind the different scenarios and outcomes of me being there when he died. I struggle with thoughts as to when I could have done anything if I had found him, as he obviously would have been found sooner than otherwise. I wonder whether I could have done anything for him

11. Still to this day I think what if, what if I hadn't had the interview in work, What if I had prepared to be a little late for my dinner and called into [B2] He usually left the back door open and I would just let myself in.
12. A couple of months after [B2] death I felt the need to go to the house. I cannot explain why. I went there and knocked at the door and then as soon as the occupants answered. I apologised and went away again.
13. My [GRO-B] was friendly with [B2] although I was not aware of that at the time. I did not know [GRO-B] at the time of [B2] funeral, I met [GRO-B] two years after [B2] death I then learnt that he was a friend of his.
14. After [GRO-B] had told me of [B2] infection, I told [GRO-B] It was the only time I talked about it.
15. [GRO-B] I found it very emotional and trying experience. It was the same for all of my family. We were very worried about infection and arranged to have ourselves tested for Hepatitis C when we came back but it turned out that we are okay.
16. I hugely miss my brother [B2] He would have been such a great uncle to my young [GRO-B] As a young girl, growing up I was aware that [B2] had problems and difficulties. He had problems with his health

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and problems with drink. I now know that he must have been living with a death sentence hanging over him. It puts a lot into perspective.

6. Treatment/Care Support

1. No support has ever been offered to us as a family yet alone personally.

7. Financial assistance

1. My brother B1 received a payout of, I think, £20,000 resulting out of litigation in the late GRO-B I am not aware of him or B2 obtaining any further payouts during his lifetime.
2. I am of course aware of the payment his partner obtained via his mother but I consider it would be awkward to raise that issue in the statement.

8. Other Issues

1. I am concerned that B2 medical records are not complete. I have seen some records. The records I have seen start at a file marked "file 6". What has happened to the first five files? Why have they gone missing? Why have they been destroyed? I feel it really is strange that File 6 is available and the rest has obviously been taken out of reach for a reason, and for that reason to me, is a cover up.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed...

GRO-B

Dated...

9/4/19