

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**  
Statement No: WITN2551001  
Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> February 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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** I live at this address with my wife **GRO-B**

2. I have been asked to write a statement about my infection of HIV and hepatitis C, which I contracted from a blood transfusion between **GRO-B** **GRO-B** In particular, the nature of my illness and how the illness affected me, the treatment I received and the impact it had on my family and me.

## 2 How Affected

1. At the age of 6 months I was diagnosed with Haemophilia A. I was suffering with a bleed and had to go into the **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B** At the time I was under **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B**
2. When I was about 7 years old I was on my way back home from **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B** after being treated when I started to vomit. Once home my General Practitioner (GP) **GRO-B** came out to see me. He confirmed that I had contracted Hepatitis B. As a child it was always the haemophilia that was a worry nothing else. I think it was at this time I was given infected blood products. When I was about 9 or 10 years old I started to inject myself. I do know from **GRO-B** I was given Factor VIII Cryoprecipitate and Kryobulin to take home. My hospital visits became fewer and fewer because I was self treating.
3. I remember in **GRO-B** the first time I had heard of HIV and hepatitis C, which seemed mainly in the gay community and related to drug users. I watched a programme about the virus spreading and even haemophiliacs were getting infected. It was concerning, however when I asked at a routine appointment at **GRO-B** I was told not to worry about it. A few months later I received a letter from **GRO-B** inviting me to do some tests for HTLV III. During my consultation with **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B** he said he would be extremely surprised if I didn't have the virus considering the amount of treatment I'd had. I think I had the result in **GRO-B** which was positive.
4. It wasn't until **GRO-B** when I learned I had contracted hepatitis C. I had no symptoms and was told by **GRO-B** during a routine appointment. It appears however that there are medical records missing for the period between **GRO-B** and therefore no definite date of diagnosis is known.

## ANONYMOUS

5. No other family member suffers with Haemophilia.

### 3. Other infections

1. There is a possibility I have also contracted CJD.

### 4. Consent

1. I knew about being tested for HIV but did not know I had been tested for hepatitis C. I think there is an assumption that we all had hepatitis C and I don't remember ever being told I was being tested for it. I was unaware I had hepatitis A until I read my medical notes.

### 5. Impact

1. When I was waiting for the results of the HTVL III results I was very worried but was hoping for the best. I was very concerned I had infected my wife as we were courting at the time. At the same time I had the diagnosis of HIV, **GRO-B** fell pregnant and we decided to terminate the pregnancy.
2. I remember when I was working **GRO-B** I felt really rough. The next morning my General Practitioner (GP) was called to my house because I couldn't breathe properly. I was rushed into **GRO-B** **GRO-B** started treating me for AIDS acquired pneumonia and I remember the nurse saying how famous I would be as I was the **GRO-B** **GRO-B** at the hospital. It was said in jest but I feel shouldn't have been. Luckily, it turned out to be Lobar pneumonia.
3. When I was told about contracting HIV through the contaminated blood I remember a constant crushing feeling of impending doom. We all thought we would be dead in two years. I think that is why I and other infected

## ANONYMOUS

- people signed a declaration to sue the government because people had started to die and this was all in the media and on the news.
4. I have only ever told immediate family members and very close friends. We never let on to anyone else. Although, I am sociable, I would never go out of my way to tell anyone about it. On one occasion I told a workmate when I was drunk, the worry was enormous. So much so, I had to go and see him the next day and ask him not to spread it around and see if he was okay with it. I have never been willing to share anything about my condition only to those who are close to me. My mother had to go for counselling as she was distraught.
  5. It had a massive impact on future planning. I was constantly in fear of the future.
  6. We never let on to our children as they were growing up. We were too afraid of the stigma that came with it and didn't want them to be bullied. Our son was told when he was **GRO-B** because unfortunately he had **GRO-B**. We told him as we felt we could help him deal with his illness better if he knew what I had been through and survived, and that I understood how he felt. My wife told our **GRO-B** **GRO-B**. She had fallen out with me because I had become preoccupied and was very short with my family. I do know she was very upset about it. **GRO-B** has grown up with knowing about it. It's a totally different approach now regarding the stigma.
  7. I lacked in ambition and had to give up my job because of joint problems. We couldn't get life or house insurance.
  8. I was very cold towards my children when they were younger. It was the not knowing if I would be around for them. Our father and children relationship was taken away from us. It still pains me today of how we all missed out as a family because I was too ill to be a proper father.

## ANONYMOUS

9. We were advised not to have children but because [GRO-B] was clear of the virus we decided to have them.
10. It has made a huge difference being cleared of hepatitis C and the HIV being treated.
11. When I was first told about being infected with contaminated blood, my wife [GRO-B] was doing [GRO-B] and because of the worry she failed them. We decided to get married as we thought time was limited and I might die. I was given a life sentence of two to five years.

### 6. Treatment/Care Support

1. When I was diagnosed with HIV there was no information, support or advice. It was only what I saw in the media that we decided to terminate the pregnancy.
2. When I first learned I had contracted hepatitis C I was offered interferon, which I turned down at first, as I knew people who had terrible side effects from it. Eventually I did try it and it set me back five years. The side effects were horrible, I became depressed and aggressive. I had diarrhoea for a year and my hair started to thin. If I had known I wouldn't have tried it. It didn't work. I had to apply for another new treatment and was turned down. I knew my liver was scarring and I was desperate. One day, out of the blue the Pharmacist from Virology at [GRO-B] phoned me about a new trial. I tried it and this cleared the virus. The Interferon had more physical impact on me than any emotional impact.
3. It took about six years before I saw a Virologist and to find out how far the HIV virus had progressed. I do now see [GRO-B] at [GRO-B] [GRO-B] on a regular basis. I was offered counselling but I felt it was too late. I probably would have in the beginning. I am now receiving Tryamac

## ANONYMOUS

for HIV, it does make me feel sick for a few hours after taking it but it keeps the virus under control.

4. We joined patient support groups and it was through these we managed to get a large proportion of information. We were able to access support and counselling and advice. Victims of this terrible scandal set up the **GRO-B** group. The hospital signposted us to it.

### **7. Financial assistance**

1. I received compensation of £60,000 through the Macfarlane Trust from the government and had to sign a declaration so I couldn't sue for any other infections.
2. I received £20,000 Stage 1 award from the Skipton Fund and also have a yearly award of £18,000.
3. I took out litigation in the USA and got a one off payment of £20,000.
4. **GRO-B** did all applications and it was a great support for my family and me. It's all lost now the Macfarlane Trust has gone and I am unsure of what is now available.
5. Because we received an extra payment into our bank account, the benefits department queried us for fraud and obtaining other forms of income. We had to seek support from a solicitor arranged by the Macfarlane Trust who sorted this out for us. It was a worry at the time, as they were looking to take legal action.

### **8. Other Issues**

1. I do feel we should be compensated for what happened to us. We have had to jump through so many hoops to get awards and I believe we could

## ANONYMOUS

have accessed a lot more financial assistance if bureaucracy of forms was easier. For example, adaptations to the house, we had to prove it needed to be done. Get social worker's reports and three quotes before it goes to a board. You can't guarantee you will get help after doing all of this work.

2. I recently had a hernia operation and the surgeon asked about my treatments. I talked to him about the documentary about the blood scandal that he saw on TV. He told me how sorry he was for this to happen.

# ANONYMOUS

## Statement of Truth

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

GRO-B

Signed

Dated 14/2/2019