

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**
Statement No: WITN2829001
Dated: 2nd 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 18th March 2019. 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. I am divorced and live with my children aged **GRO-B** years of age. My **GRO-B** year old has Haemophilia A, like my father, **GRO-B: F**

2. How affected

1. My father had Haemophilia A. He was infected with Hepatitis C and HIV through contaminated blood products. I became aware of this when my mother informed me when I was 18.

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2. I am uncertain as to the period of time in which he received infected blood products and the centres he received those products. I am unaware of whether my father was provided advice about the risk of infection before receiving the blood products. I do not know how my father was informed that he had been infected.

3. Other infections

1. My mother informed me that my father was infected with Hepatitis C and HIV.

4. Consent

1. I am unaware of whether my father was treated or tested with his knowledge, consent or without being given adequate or full information.

5. Impact

1. My father died on GRO-B when I was on holiday with my parents and my brother in GRO-B. I can remember waking up on the morning to the sound of my mother shouting my father's name. I remember seeing him collapsed between the toilet and the bath and seeing the reflection of his face in the mirror. It was very distressing seeing my father collapsed and my mother very upset.
2. Since my father's death, I have witnessed a difference in my mother, it is as if she has built a barrier around herself. I felt that I was not able to talk to her and seek the support I needed having lost my father. I also felt that I became the second parent for my brother, because my mother became a single carer and I was the GRO-B.
3. At the time of my father's death, my mother informed me that he died of a brain haemorrhage. However, when I was 18 my mother informed me that my father had been infected by the blood products. At first she told me that he

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had been infected with Hepatitis C, however recently she has told me that he was also infected with HIV. I have learnt more through watching the Panorama documentary and also from speaking to the Haemophilia Centre at the [GRO-B]. My son, [GRO-B], has haemophilia A and I passed this to my son as I am a carrier of the gene. In consequence of this, I have remained in contact with the Haemophilia Centre and therefore have gained further knowledge about the circumstances of my father's death.

4. Prior to the birth of my son, I had to have an amniocentesis in order to determine whether he had Haemophilia. It was at this point that I learnt of his condition.
5. Whilst I know that my son needs treatment because of his condition, I live with the constant worry that in the future, maybe my son will suffer adverse consequences as a result of the treatment, in the same way that my father has. I am struggling to have full confidence in the health provision that my son is receiving.
6. Following my father's death, when my mother returned to work, both my brother and I had to sleep over our grandparents home on a regular basis so that my mother attend work early in the morning. In [GRO-B] only 3 months after my father's death, my grandmother died in similar circumstances to my father. I found her collapsed in the bathroom. I began to feel that it was my fault that my father and my grandmother had died.
7. I can remember that my father suffered with his ankles and his knees, and needed to use crutches. I can also remember that he lost a lot of weight just before he died and 2 nights prior to his death he was unwell and had to remain in the room when we were on holiday.
8. My father never informed my mother of the fact that he had been infected with HIV, and he never informed the Haemophilia Centre that I existed until I was [GRO-B]
[GRO-B] Therefore I felt that following his death I never really knew him and

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I struggled to understand why he had not shared this information with my mother.

9. It has also been difficult to deal with certain events in my life in the absence of my father, such as my graduation, my wedding day and the birth of my children. On my wedding day, **GRO-B** gave me away.
10. Since having a son with the same condition as my father, I have found it difficult to cope without having my father to turn to for guidance and advice.
11. When I returned to school following my father's death, I was bullied by another child because of my father's death. In consequence, I began to self-harm. I used to hurt myself to make myself feel better. I continued to self-harm between **GRO-B**. I consulted a GP but he never referred me for any assistance and told me that there was nothing wrong with me. I felt as if I was an inconvenience to him.
12. Following the birth of my son I suffered depression. I felt sad, and I would lose my temper with my son for no reason. I would take my anger out on everyone. I would argue with my mother and if my son would cry I would lose my temper very easily. I received no treatment for my depression. I received counselling via the Haemophilia Centre following **GRO-B** diagnosis. Whilst at school, I was offered counselling through the school. I did not find this counselling very beneficial.

6. Treatment/Care Support

1. I am unaware of any obstacles my father faced in obtaining treatment, care and support.
2. I received the counselling referred to above.

7. Financial Assistance

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1. I have never received any financial assistance. I am aware that my mother has received financial assistance however I am not fully aware of the source of the assistance and the amount received.

8. Other Issues

1. At the time of preparing this statement, my father's medical chronology had not been received. Following consideration of the chronology I may wish to comment further.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed.

GRO-B

Dated... 2.4.19