

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B  
Statement No.: WITN2958001  
Exhibits: 0  
Dated: 1 June 2019

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**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**  
**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF** GRO-B

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**Section 1: Introduction**

1. My name is GRO-B GRO-B GRO-B: M  
M who is an infected person and providing a statement to the Inquiry. My  
date of birth is the GRO-B and my address details are known to the  
Inquiry.

**Section 2: How Affected**

2. I am providing this statement in support of GRO-B statement in order to  
convey to the Inquiry how I believe the infection has impacted on GRO-B life  
and on my life. I have two siblings: GRO-B and GRO-B both of whom are  
providing a statement to the Inquiry.
3. In terms of how my GRO-B became infected please refer to witness statement  
M

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4. In terms of whether information was provided to GRO-B in advance of GRO-B receiving the blood transfusion, as above, please refer to GRO-B
5. GRO-B infected with hepatitis C only.
6. GRO- has set out in a lot of detail how GRO-B came to find out that GRO-B had become infected with hepatitis C. For this detail, GRO-B

### Section 3: Other infections

7. I believe that GRO-B was infected with hepatitis C only.

### Section 4: Consent

8. In terms of the consent process, again, GRO-B  
GRO-B, as above for further information.

### Section 5: Impact

9. Please refer to GRO-B as referenced above. I provide information below about the impact that I believe the infection has had GRO-B  
GRO-B and on my life.
10. We ( GRO-B ) were first made aware of GRO-B hepatitis C diagnosis in GRO- I had to be tested myself for the virus shortly after GRO-B diagnosis and in GRO-B and remember that the post-test and pre-results period was an incredibly anxious time for me.
11. My family's understanding of the potential impact of the virus and potential courses of treatment was unclear for many months, perhaps because it was

down-played initially in early hospital communications. Nonetheless, the need to be careful and avoid sharing water glasses or utensils for example changed a family dynamic and meant that the virus was ever-present.

12. I was at university when [GRO-B] started [GRO-B] first course of treatment and at this time the impact became more real. Before treatment I was less aware of the physical manifestation of the hepatitis C virus [GRO-B]. The medication was a mixture of very powerful drugs with very clear side effects including tiredness, partial hair loss, memory changes. Please refer to [GRO-B] statement for the full note of [GRO-B] physical and mental symptoms. Whilst I was able to hide some of my feelings due to the physical distance; as I expect [GRO-B] was also able to do, the diagnosis with hepatitis C profoundly affected me. The lack of information coupled with the uncertain outcome of the drugs unsurprisingly meant that I could only consider a worst-case prognosis and assume that [GRO-B] quality of life and life expectancy would be significantly impacted. I believe that my outlook was exacerbated by the lack of publicly available information about the nature of the disease and the availability and potential success rate of early medicines. I recall the film 'Philadelphia' was released in early 1994, and that there were some obvious parallels given the subject of HIV and the impact on the central character. I still recall vividly how emotional I felt as I watched it. I rang home immediately after watching the film, just to say hello.
13. In [GRO-B] the family home was moved from London. A key factor in the decision to move was the difficulties [GRO-B] faced [GRO-B] and after [GRO-B] was made redundant by them, in gaining new employment. This was as a direct result of the infection and the treatment for it. The impact [GRO-B] was made worse by the fact that it came at such a key stage in [GRO-B] life. [GRO-B] continued to fight to re-build [GRO-B] career and even undertook a second degree to open new doors. I am immensely proud of what [GRO-B] subsequently achieved, but the change in circumstances meant that the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] This was to cause



logistical difficulties when GRO-B died just five years later. My worry about GRO-B being isolated from GRO-B family was heightened because GRO-B was so unwell. The longer commute and distance to see GRO-B caused me great concern. Above all, it was very difficult and extremely unpleasant to see someone I love suffering and changing as result of the treatment that GRO-B had to have to try to clear the virus. I remember very well the side effects; both physical and mental, of the medicine, and certain memories of this time will always stay with me.

14. GRO-B is a strong, proud and independent person and has been incredibly brave to undertake the several courses of treatment and to fight the virus. I am immensely proud of GRO-B. After three courses of failed treatment, I remember talking GRO-B and encouraging GRO-B to apply for a new trial of treatment that GRO-B had the opportunity to partake in. I wanted GRO-B to try one more time to beat the infection. I wanted GRO-B both to clear the infection; particularly because of the other health issues GRO-B was suffering from that I suspected were linked, and of course to increase GRO-B chances of living longer. I know it was a horrible choice for GRO-B to have to make and knowing GRO-B would also have to undergo those subsequent treatments without the support of someone being in the same house after GRO-B, made the situation even harder GRO-B and caused me much anxiety particularly at my inability to be more practically supportive. I recall having to get to the hospital quickly on a couple of occasions GRO-B admitted suddenly. Seeing the impact of those courses of treatment on GRO-B even from my sheltered space and from a distance at times, was very tough.
15. The side effects of the different medicines were not fully understood at the time that they were administered GRO-B and I believe they are not well understood even now, but it seems to me that they have manifested over the years in ways that have been upsetting. I explain this further in the paragraph below. The side effects have given me regular concern GRO-B health and indeed perhaps even more frustratingly have directly impacted our relationship. GRO-B is

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a very active, highly capable and fiercely intelligent person, but whilst GRO-B seeks to hide or dismiss GRO-B malaise, I continue to worry about GRO-B health. The long-term conditions that GRO-B has and GRO-B susceptibility to further illness cannot, I believe, be considered as simply age-related.

16. Whilst incredibly proud of GRO-B including GRO-B determination to both fight the disease and remain fully active, the heightened sense of anxiety and occasional mental 'fog' which I believe the medicines have directly caused, have created misunderstandings or difficult periods in our relationship from time to time. GRO-B has a heightened fear that things may be wrong or could go wrong, particularly with young children. GRO-B has been incredibly supportive of our family and GRO-B grandchildren but this anxiety for both their and our safety has caused arguments, made it harder to relax on occasion at family gatherings, and indeed made certain topics more difficult to discuss lest it worry GRO-B unduly. It is only recently that this has been identified as a likely side-effect of the medicine; making it easier to understand, but the impact cannot be under-estimated. It cannot be easy for GRO-B also given the incredible support GRO-B gives to all GRO-B immediate and broader family.

### Section 6: Treatment/ Care/ Support

17. For information about the treatment, care and support GRO-B received, please refer to GRO-B statement, GRO-B M

18. Again, in relation to counselling or psychological support, please refer to GRO-B  
GRO-B M

### Section 7: Financial Assistance

19. Please refer to GRO-B M

**Section 8: Other Issues**

20. I would like the Inquiry to find out the truth about self-sufficiency/ self-insufficiency in blood and blood product supply here in the UK and why the decision was taken to source blood and blood products from external sources. I would like to have more transparency around the external sourcing of blood and/ or blood products here in the UK to understand fully when it happened, why it happened and who took the decision to allow it to happen both initially and thereafter the continued supply of it. Ultimately I would like an admission of culpability and an apology to those affected.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed:

GRO-B

Full Name:

GRO-B

Date:

1st June 2019