

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF

GRO-B

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I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

**Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is GRO-B of GRO-B  
My date of birth is GRO-B I am married to GRO-B: W who has also provided a  
witness statement for the Inquiry. One of my four children, GRO-B has  
also provided a witness statement for the Inquiry.

2. This statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my medical  
records.

**Section 2. How Infected**

3. I have severe Haemophilia A with a zero percent clotting factor. I initially received  
Cryoprecipitate before progressing to Factor VIII concentrates when they became available;  
receiving large quantities of the same throughout the 1970s and 1980s.
4. I was treated at the York District Hospital ("the Hospital") under Dr Wiley.
5. I was not given any information or warning in relation to the risk of infection from Factor VIII  
concentrates.

## ANONYMOUS

6. I was infected with HIV, Hepatitis C (Non-A Non-B [NANB] Hepatitis as it was known then) and Hepatitis B. I believe that I was infected with all three viruses in the 1980s. As far as I am aware my first positive test for all three viruses was in 1984 and this was when I was told about my infections.
7. I received a letter from Dr Wiley in mid 1984 advising that I had been infected with HIV. I therefore telephoned the Hospital because I was really frightened as the media was portraying AIDS in a terrible light at this time. Dr Wiley did not want to speak to me and it was a real struggle to obtain an appointment with him. However, he finally agreed that he would see me but for a maximum of only 10 minutes.
8. My wife accompanied me to the meeting with Dr Wiley. He was very rude and dismissive and it was plainly evident that he had no time for me, despite the enormity of the situation which I was facing. He asked what was it that I wanted to know. I said *"is it ok to kiss or do I need to separate myself from my wife"*. He just said *"oh yes you have got it just use extra protection with your wife, good day"*. I received absolutely no information or advice to allow me to understand or manage my HIV.
9. I returned home in complete shock; I did not know what to think and I was petrified as I had only got married in the May and we had young children.
10. I remember attending a further meeting with Dr Wiley in 1984 where he broke the news to me that I was infected with both NANB Hepatitis and Hepatitis B. He was very curt, matter of fact and completely dismissive in the manner in which he imparted this news.
11. It was not until the late 1980s, when my wife and I travelled to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford to see Dr Rizza and Dr Matthews, that my mind was put at rest in relation to my infections. I was provided with, for the first time, solid factual and practical information and I felt that I actually mattered. My wife was also tested at this time and thankfully she had not been infected.

### Section 3. Other Infections

12. I received a letter advising that I had been put at risk of vCJD. I am unsure as to the date of this letter.

Section 4. Consent

13. I was tested for various viruses without my knowledge and therefore without my consent. Evidence of this is the fact that I had no idea that I was tested for HIV, NANB Hepatitis and Hepatitis B in 1984. Furthermore, given the above it is preposterous to think that I was only tested on these three occasions.

Section 5. Impact

14. When I found out that I had HIV, NANB Hepatitis and Hepatitis B I was really scared and thought that my life was over. My first thoughts were for my wife and the children. Dr Wiley's poor behaviour towards me only added to my inner turmoil. I developed depression and found it difficult to cope.

15. We lived in a very small town called [GRO-B] where everyone knew everyone. This was particularly so with my family because my [GRO-B] I was therefore unable to share news of my infections with anyone except my wife. I believe that having to maintain such a "dirty secret" and live a "type of covert life" was the hardest part of being infected.

16. I also thought that if I told anyone then people would treat my children differently which would have had a detrimental effect on their wellbeing. It was a sad and difficult situation to be in and it is all credit to my wife that we both got through, and reached where we are today. My family were hit hard [GRO-B]

17. I remember my wife entering a [GRO-B] shop in [GRO-B] and the [GRO-B] saying to her [GRO-B] [GRO-B] A local radio had announced that there were about 2 or 3 infected people living in [GRO-B] and everyone knew that I had Haemophilia. My wife's first husband was called [GRO-B] My wife denied the fact that I was infected but the [GRO-B] knew that she was lying. It was horrible thinking that my infections had been outed by the radio.

18. I worked at [GRO-B] [GRO-B] so I was able to attend regular appointments with minimal disruption to my employment. I never disclosed my infections to my boss. Unfortunately, once my health started declining my boss put me on permanent sick leave when I was only in my 40s. When I reached the age



## ANONYMOUS

of 50, my boss telephoned me to discuss releasing my pension to me. I asked if it could continue to run and accrue monies until I reached the age of 65 and he agreed to this. I haven't got a bad word to say about GRO-B

19. I suffered a number of physical and mental effects as a result of my infections. I became very confused, exhausted and lethargic. I also take a cocktail of tablets to keep my HIV at bay. I am under Dr Minton's care at St James's University Hospital in Leeds in relation to my liver, where I undergo three monthly scans. Currently my liver is classed as being "scarred".

20. About 8 years ago I was given treatment for my Hepatitis C. I cannot remember the name of this treatment but it made me very depressed which culminated in me making an attempt on my life. My poor wife had only popped out to the hairdressers and upon her return she discovered me in an unresponsive state, having consumed numerous tablets. She was unable to rouse me so telephoned our GP, GRO-B who attended immediately. He arranged for an ambulance to take me to the Hospital. As a result of this incident, my Hepatitis C treatment was stopped and I failed to clear the virus. I am of the view that I should have been given far more information and advice on the possible side effects of this treatment.

21. It was not until late 2018 that I was given the opportunity to have further treatment for my Hepatitis C. I cannot recall the name of this treatment but it lasted for 6 months and I did not suffer any side effects. Following completion of this, I was declared clear of the virus. Unfortunately, I don't feel any better and am still confused and lethargic.

### Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

22. I was treated like a leper by the NHS as a result of my infections. I was given plastic plates, knives and forks to eat my meals with when I was an inpatient at the Hospital. The medical professionals who dealt with me were fully masked and gloved. This was upsetting, not only for me, but for my family. The Hospital also made my wife wear a mask when she visited me which was nonsensical as she did not do the same at home.

23. My wife and I were not impressed with the Hospital's serious breach of patient confidentiality which occurred in relation to my viruses. An employee of the Hospital telephoned my home in the latter part of 1984 to advise that they had erroneously sent me a "bad batch" of Factor VIII concentrates and were therefore requesting return of the same.

## ANONYMOUS

My wife answered the telephone and told them that I had already started using the "bad batch". The employee told her that it would not matter because "*he is already infected*". My wife could have been the cleaner or anyone else who happened to answer the telephone that day. The employee never asked who she was speaking to.

24. Neither myself nor my family were offered any counselling or psychological support. My wife and I supported each other and dealt with matters alone, although my wife did disclose my infections to her late aunt who never disclosed the same to a soul.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

25. I received a payment, in connection with what had happened to me, for £20,000 which arrived into my bank account about 30 years ago but I am unsure as to where it came from.

26. I can't really recall much about the support I received from the Skipton Fund and the Macfarlane Trust. I do remember that I went without any support for many years and when I did receive anything it felt like I had had to beg for it.

27. I now receive just over £3,666.66 per month from the EIBSS together with a £500 winter fuel payment.

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

28. I want the Inquiry to obtain justice for all of those infected and affected by the contaminated blood scandal.

29. It is utterly scandalous that John Major told Margaret Thatcher that there were plenty of charities for us to go to which meant that they would not need to compensate us. The reason I know that this was said was because one of my friends was working in Parliament at this time told me about it.

30. I want to ensure that my wife and children are properly compensated and taken care of in the event of my death.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

31. I wish to apply for anonymity and I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated.....

1-10-2019