

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**  
Statement No: WITN2488001  
Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

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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** 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 live at the above address with my wife **GRO-B**
3. I intend to speak about my infection of hepatitis C (HCV) and B (HBV) and HIV, which I contracted from infected blood products in the early **GRO-B** In particular, the nature of my illness and how the illness has affected me; the treatment I received and the impact it has had on me and my family.

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## 2.How Infected

1. When I was about [GRO-B] years old I, along with other family members and [GRO-B] was invited to undergo tests to see if we had haemophilia. The reason we were tested was because my [GRO-B] and some of my [GRO-B] had died. It was then I found out that I had the condition haemophilia A. My [GRO-B] were carriers, I am not sure about my [GRO-B] but I do know [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]
2. As a child and teenager, it was very rare I had to go into hospital. I would really only have to be admitted if I had teeth out as the bleeding wouldn't stop. I had a few bumps and grazes as a teenager through playing rugby or football but nothing serious. When I was either [GRO-B] years old I had a nasty bump on the calf of my leg. I didn't bother going into hospital straight away as I thought at the time it was just another bump. However, it went a nasty colour so I ended up at the [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] and nearly lost my leg. At the beginning of my stay in hospital I was given Cryoprecipitate for three weeks and the last two weeks of my stay in there, I was given Factor VIII. I was told at the time by [GRO-B] that Factor VIII was a new drug and it would make it quicker for the nurses to administer. He also said I may experience some side effects such as flu symptoms and could feel a little rough. Upon discharge, I was given a batch of Factor VIII to take home to store and to self-administer. In [GRO-B] I twisted my ankle and was readmitted into the [GRO-B] where again I was given Factor VIII for five weeks. I remember this as I had to [GRO-B]
3. I started to become unwell after the calf injury. I was jaundiced and very tired; so much so I couldn't get up from the sofa. I couldn't eat and was vomiting all of the time and lost two stone in weight within ten days. At first I thought it was the side effects [GRO-B] had mentioned and just accepted it, however, I became so unwell that I was admitted to hospital and [GRO-B] [GRO-B] informed me I had non-specific hepatitis. It wasn't until I was in my [GRO-B] that it was confirmed to me I had hepatitis A, B and C.

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4. I was always being tested for something and in [GRO-B] said he was testing me for HIV. I was invited to attend the hospital for my results, however I couldn't attend as I was working. My wife went instead but [GRO-B] who had a Social Worker with him, said he couldn't give her any information. I suppose it was admittance in itself really that I had contracted HIV from infected blood. My wife and I both attended another appointment soon after and it was then [GRO-B] informed me I had AIDS, it was terminal and I had about three to five years to live.

### 3.Other Infections

1. I have been told that I have possibly contracted vCJD.

### 4.Consent

1. I was always having my blood tested. [GRO-B] was always saying it was routine tests but never specifically told me what for. I could have been tested for years without being told.

### 5.Impact

1. There was no need for me to come off Cryoprecipitate as it was working well for me. I am a mild haemophiliac and the reason Factor VIII was given to me was because it was a lot quicker to administer for the staff at the hospital saving them time and money.
2. The contamination of my blood has indeed messed up my life and severely altered the expectations of the life I would have led. When you are told in your [GRO-B] that you're terminally ill with the worst contagious virus it seriously impacts upon your perspective of life. When I was told I had HIV I was fortunate that I was already married with a young [GRO-B]. The large family we planned for was no longer to be.

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3. My wife and I decided not to tell anyone. We had to protect our [GRO-B] as we lived in a small community. At the time we had seen in the news about a young boy who had died of AIDS through infected blood and his poor parent's house was daubed in paint by neighbours calling them scum etc. People were so ignorant [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] The negative reporting of the media created a generalised view of this. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] I would have to bite my lip and say no, but I was so upset about this.
4. I was mentally devastated. When I told my [GRO-B] they didn't offer me support, in fact they turned their back on me. My [GRO-B] called me dirty. I have not spoken to them since and neither have they to me. Just before my [GRO-B] died I wanted to go and see her but my [GRO-B] wouldn't allow it. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] I blame the negative media reporting for this. There was no information that I could give to my family to explain why I was infected. They just made up their own minds. I was treated like a leper by my own family. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] After what happened with my family isolating me I couldn't tell anyone as I feared friends would be the same.
5. Given that I had a life sentence of three to five years I turned to the drink. My wife did also. We got into a lot of debt using credit cards as we thought I would die so we just spent money like there was no tomorrow. We wanted a bigger family and my wife went to a private clinic for artificial insemination but it didn't work. She later had treatment on the NHS but this didn't work either.
6. We told our [GRO-B] when he was about [GRO-B] years old as we thought he was old enough to understand. We had to be very careful how we approached this

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and luckily, he was very laid back about it. When we eventually found the courage to tell our friends they were really supportive.

7. Some years ago, I can't remember when, but I was asked to go to see a specialist at the HIV clinic at the [GRO-B]. When I got there, it was full of drug users not haemophiliacs. I was embarrassed to think I was being treated as a drug user. I was asked by the specialist how I was feeling and because I was feeling OK that was it and he said to come back in a year. It's a constant reminder having to go back and forth to these clinics.
8. I have to go to the [GRO-B] to have treatment for my teeth. The clinic is held in a teaching hospital so is very open with other people having treatment at the same time. I got really embarrassed at one time when the dentist shouted 'are you still on treatment for HIV?'
9. My wife and I had a lot of problems getting a mortgage as we couldn't get home and life insurance. Eventually, we found a mortgage provider who allowed us to have one on a repayment scheme. If we went on holiday, we would omit the HIV as we felt we wouldn't get travel insurance if I said anything about it.
10. My wife [GRO-B] gets very emotional and angry about what has happened to me. It is still very raw for her. If it wasn't for her I may not be here today telling my story. What sticks with me is that [GRO-B] knew what he was doing. He was a nasty little man. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] A lot of people who I have met who had been infected have died.

### 6. Treatment/Care/Support

1. In [GRO-B] I was told not to share any of my toiletries such as towels, razors and toothbrushes and to have no more sexual contact and no [GRO-B] children. I

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wasn't offered any information about HIV or hepatitis nor was I offered any support. I was given a prognosis of five years to live, if I was lucky.

2. We had a really good Social Worker who introduced us to GRO-B where we got counselling and marriage guidance as I wanted my wife to leave me.
3. I was offered a course of Interferon for the hepatitis and was very poorly taking this for two years. I had side effects of flu symptoms, weight loss, was very moody and irritable and also had sweats. I had to continue to work through all of this as we needed the money. I was cleared of the infection. I went on a HIV drug trial and was given Atripla. Again, I suffered side effects from this being spaced out and sleeping all of the time. Communication is always lacking. They changed my drugs over to a generic one without any consultation. This gets on my nerves as they only need to say.
4. I believe I was tested and used as research without my knowledge. I was never specifically told what I was being tested for and I did not need to have Factor VIII as the Cryoprecipitate was doing a perfect job as and when I needed it.

### **7.Financial Assistance**

1. I have received £20,000 from the Skipton Fund and since then I have dealt with the Macfarlane Trust over the years.

### **8.Other Issues**

1. I feel that I was used as a guinea pig as I did not need Factor VIII.
2. This inquiry is dragging on. Why has it taken this long? Is the Government waiting for even more people to die?

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## Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated.....

15.2.19