

Witness Name: **GRO-B**
Statement No: WITN2499001
Dated: 14th March 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 12th 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. I confirm I make this statement in relation to the affects from Hepatitis C that my mother **GRO-B** suffered.

2 How Affected

1. I would confirm that Mum was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia in **GRO-B**
2. Mum was very ill but before that was very much a fighter with what I would describe as a can do attitude.

3. Fortunately, she recovered from the Acute Myeloid Leukaemia sufficiently that she had a reasonable quality of life. I say reasonable because she had lost the sight in her left eye and also had some difficulties with her balance and memory.
4. She was however, what I would describe as a tough cookie and she came through the leukaemia.
5. I can recall in [GRO-B] I would have been [GRO-B] speaking to my mother and father after they had gone back to [GRO-B] regarding blood transfusions that mum received when she had the treatment for leukaemia which included a bone marrow transplant.
6. I can remember being told by them that Mum had Hepatitis C as a result of being given contaminated blood products back in [GRO-B]
7. In some ways, I was very naive. I was [GRO-B] but I just looked on it that Mum was a fighter and it was something that she would get through. It was obviously not good news but I was confident that Mum would simply get on with it as she had done previously.

3 Other infections

1. Fortunately, Mum had no other infections save for the Hepatitis C.

4. Consent

1. I am not able to comment in relation to consent, although I anticipate that consent was given for the transfusions and platelets that Mum received as part of her treatment for the Leukaemia back in [GRO-B]

5. Impact

1. I confirm that the Hepatitis C diagnosis had quite an impact on Mum in that I know that she was concerned about it and questioned as to why

it was her who was facing another setback given all that she had come through. However, in terms of her actual condition she was still very much a fighter, she carried on, and attempted to live life to the full. She and Dad would go on regular holidays and I would also take her on trips to the theatre in London, and later to the theatre more locally in **GRO-B** when the travelling to shows in London became too much for her. Given my Mum's health circumstances I feel very lucky that we still managed to enjoy some valuable "mother/daughter" time together.

2. She had a very nasty bout of shingles, in about **GRO-B** after she recovered from the Leukaemia and Mum suffered a great deal of pain for the rest of her life following the shingles. The shingles knocked her back somewhat but again she kept fighting.
3. In terms of the mental impact the Hepatitis C diagnosis had on her then certainly, her memory deteriorated and she needed help with cooking. She, as I said was a fighter and she very much kept her own thoughts regarding the Hepatitis C to herself and never really let on the greater concerns that she had about it.
4. One of the things that was extremely frustrating and upsetting was that there was a promise of new drugs to potentially cure Hepatitis C. I know that my father made requests to speak with the Consultant Haematologist at **GRO-B** (who were in later years responsible for Mum's treatment), on a number of occasions, but these requests were never met, and so my Dad never had an opportunity to raise queries about the new drugs with the Consultant Haematologist. Whilst certain promises were made regarding medication this was never prescribed.
5. One of the other impacts I can remember was my Mum and Dad having to tell the dentist about the Hepatitis C and that probably brought home to me that we were dealing with a condition that was quite infectious and potentially dangerous.

6. Treatment/Care Support

1. To my knowledge whilst Mum did take some medication for the Hepatitis C initially, this medication was discontinued after a while and from then on treatment/care was very much a case of monitoring and regular blood tests.
2. I also know from the medical records that she had two liver scans on the GRO-B and the GRO-B but as far as I am aware, there was no other treatment, care or support provided.

7. Financial assistance

1. I know that Mum and Dad did receive some money via various trust funds but I could not provide any further information regarding that and I am sure that is something that my father can cover within his statement.

8. Other Issues

1. None.

Statement of Truth

I believe the facts stated and this witness statement are true.

Signed

GRO-B

Dated

14 / 03 / 19