

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1308001

Exhibits:0

Dated: February 2019

## 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 DOB GRO-B and I live at GRO-B  
GRO-B
2. Both of my brothers have died as a result of receiving contaminated blood products. GRO-B: B1 died on GRO-B at the age of 51 after being infected with HIV and possibility Hepatitis C. GRO-B: B2 died on GRO-B after being infected with HIV and Hepatitis C.
3. B2's ex-wife, GRO-B and B1's ex-wife, GRO-B have both provided statements to the Inquiry.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late brothers' full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

**Section 2. How Affected**

5. We lived in India when we were younger but the doctor advised us that [B1] should not be living in the heat due to his severe haemophilia. We therefore moved back to England.
6. We all went to boarding school when we were younger, where [B1] and [B2] both suffered horribly from their haemophilia.
7. [B2] was mainly treated at [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] when he was younger and [B1] was treated at the [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] throughout his life. [B1] or his wife would often administer his treatment at home but [B2] usually received his treatment at the hospital.
8. I do not have much information regarding how my brothers were infected or told about their infections. These matters have been addressed in the statements of their ex-wives.
9. When [B1] found out about his infection, he first told his wife before eventually telling us. My mother was absolutely devastated. Her hair turned grey overnight and she found it very difficult to process.

**Section 3. Other Infections**

10. I am not aware of any other infections that my brothers' may have been exposed to.

**Section 4. Consent**

11. I am unaware of what testing, if any, my brothers consented to.

**Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

12. We saw quite a lot of [B2] when he was ill. [B2] didn't really suffer from visible symptoms. There was nothing obviously wrong with him, and [B2] wouldn't give anything away – he would rather suffer in silence than have us worry. We didn't know what was going on in his mind because he wouldn't open up. He would only really open up to my sister-in-law.
13. I saw less of [B1] as he was moving all over the place. [B1] was so gentle and so quiet. He often suffered from lesions and pneumonia but also didn't say much about how he was suffering. He was an absolute genius, and because he couldn't work at the time he would study instead. His wife went through so much in caring for him.
14. They didn't like talking about their conditions, especially [B2] who was the more 'rough and tumble' brother. He wouldn't even talk about his haemophilia.
15. I also carry the haemophilia gene. At the time this was happening (after we became aware of my brothers' HIV status) I required a thyroid operation. They told me that they had blood that had been heat-treated, which I agreed to let them use. This was around 1985. After they treated me they tested me for about three years to ensure that I was safe and hadn't been infected with any of the viruses that had been present in the other blood products.
16. Dr [GRO-B] who dealt mostly with [B1] was a lovely man. He used to give me a lift to the station when I visited [B1] in hospital because I didn't drive which I thought was really nice of him. He looked after us more than most doctors would.
17. [B2] was supposed to be going to my parents' house the weekend he died. He had just bought a flat in [GRO-B] that he had only been living in for about a week. He was in the bathroom doing some washing and he must have just collapsed. My mother was absolutely terrified when she couldn't get hold of him. They rushed to his house and had to get the police to come and break

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the door down as they couldn't do it themselves. The ambulance crew came and took him to GRO-B which was his nearest hospital at the time.

18. I received a call from his wife telling me that she was going to pick me up and take me to London. She hated driving and it was very daunting for her to do this drive. We made it in time and I was with him when he died. I think it must have been reassuring to have someone with him, even if he was unconscious at the time. I think that he was aware that I was there.

19. Both of my brothers' wives were very good at arranging their funerals. I didn't have to do much to help and they tried not to put much pressure on my mother either.

20. When I lost my brothers I just didn't know what to say, what to think or what to do. I am fortunate that I have God-given strength; I study religion. There was nothing else I could do, I just had to accept it and do my best to get on with my life. I don't like to think about the terrible suffering and sadness that they went through. I try to block this from my mind and only think of the positive times we had together.

21. My mother suffered from terrible guilt, not only for what happened to the boys but because she felt like she had neglected me.

### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

22. Neither my parents nor I were ever offered counselling at this time. Even if it had been offered I don't think my mother would have accepted this because she wouldn't have wanted to talk about it.

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

23. I have not received any financial assistance from any of the various schemes or trusts.

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## Section 8. Other Issues

24. We have never been given the answers that we have been looking for. The truth needs to come out.

## Anonymity

25. I am happy to be anonymous for the benefit of my sisters-in-law.

26. I don't think I would be able 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

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Dated

25-2-2019.