

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3036001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: January 2020

## 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 and I was born on GRO-B I live at GRO-B  
GRO-B I have been married to GRO-B  
GRO-B for GRO-B years and he has also provided a witness statement to the  
Inquiry under WITN GRO-B
2. I make this statement as an affected wife of GRO-B: H who was infected with  
HIV, Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B via his use of contaminated Factor VIII  
concentrates.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access  
to my husband's full medical records.

### Section 2. How Affected

4. My husband's witness statement includes full details of his medical history so  
I do not intend to repeat this information in my statement. I will instead give

an account of my perspective of his treatment and the effect that it has had on our lives.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

5. I refer to my husband's statement.

### **Section 4. Consent**

6. I refer to my husband's statement.

### **Section 5. Impact**

7. I married [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] and was fully aware of his haemophilia and the seriousness of that condition. I also knew that due to the dynamic nature of his personality he would do all that he could to ensure that we had a full and happy life together. I loved him and wanted to spend the rest of our lives together. We have a very strong marriage and I still feel lucky to have married him, despite what has happened over the years.
8. I have always known that [GRO-B] physical health in terms of joint mobility would decline over the years and that has been the case. What I was not prepared for was the major problems inflicted by HIV and Hepatitis C. Whilst [GRO-B] haemophilia has been reasonably well managed, issues regarding HIV and Hepatitis C have been huge, traumatic and continue to cause stress.
9. [GRO-B] statement listed the many physical ailments to include cirrhosis, meningitis and oesophageal varices which have caused him pain, stress and many hospital visits. We consider ourselves hospital veterans with in-patient stays and countless hours spent in waiting rooms. Even when there are no immediate health problems, life is still organised around regular, frequent hospital appointments for consultations, check-ups or scans.

10. However, I do consider myself fortunate to still have GRO-B with me, despite all these physical problems. Sadly both his haemophiliac nephews have died over the years we have been together and I know that has been a huge sorrow to him. Their haemophilia experiences had bonded them together and they were particularly close.
11. Whilst GRO-B handles his many health problems with amazing patience and tolerance, it is the mental issues that concern me the most. He has had to give up a highly successful career which he loved, and which inspired and motivated him. Despite having cleared Hepatitis C, he has been left with serious liver damage. This, combined with a hugely damaged immune system lends itself to a very uncertain future, which is very hard to live with. I see changes in his personality which makes me sad. Despite haemophilia being a very serious condition, it is nothing compared to his HIV and Hepatitis C.
12. I know GRO-B has always worried about my future should anything happen to him. However, in recent years I have been treated for breast cancer and I now find myself anxious about his prospects should my health deteriorate.

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

13. I refer to GRO-B statement.

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

14. I refer to GRO-B statement.

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

15. GRO-B and I have always tried to push aside our problems and to live our lives as fully as possible. Over the years there have been various Inquiries and reports into the "*Tainted Blood Scandal*" as it became known. Hopes

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have been raised and dashed so many times and no action taken. I sincerely hope this does not happen with this Inquiry.

16. To be truthful, it makes me very angry that [GRO-B] is asked to rake over all the pain and hurt of these problems again and again. I know [GRO-B] sister who lost her two sons finds it impossible to do so. I just hope that this time there will finally be a just resolution to this outrage before even more lives are lost, and that some sympathy and kindness is show to those involved.

### Anonymity

17. I wish to apply for anonymity and I do not wish 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.

16.1.20