

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3410001

Exhibits: WITN3410002-3

Dated: JULY 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF

GRO-B

I, **GRO-B** will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B** I was born on the **GRO-B** 1960 and I live at **GRO-B**
2. My father, **GRO-B:F** (born on **GRO-B** 1934), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He died on **GRO-B** 2006, aged 72. Haemophilia and Hepatitis C are listed (amongst others) under Cause of Death on my father's Death Certificate.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

Section 2. How infected

4. My father had mild Haemophilia A with a clotting factor of 28%.

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5. My father was treated at the St Thomas' and Guy's Haemophilia Centre in London. I refer to **Exhibit WITN3410002** being a copy of my father's National Haemophilia Database Record. My father appears to have been first treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate in 1984. My father had five hip replacement surgeries over a period of time with the first surgery being in the 1990s and the last surgery taking place in late 2005. He was treated with a lot of FVIII concentrate ahead of the surgeries.
6. I do not know what information and/or advice was provided to my father ahead of his FVIII treatment. My father never mentioned any risk associated with FVIII concentrate. He thought FVIII concentrate was a good thing. I am astonished that what was supposed to be life saving treatment could have such detrimental consequences.

Section 3. Other Infections

7. I do not believe that my father was exposed to any other infections than HCV.

Section 4. Consent

8. I do not know if my father was tested or treated without his knowledge or consent. Referring again to **Exhibit WITN3410002** my father appears to have been tested for HIV on 11th March 1987 with a negative result.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

9. My father was a private man. I do not know when and how he was informed that he had HCV. I left home in the mid 1980s and it could have been any time after that. I refer to **Exhibit WITN3410003** being copies of my father's Stage 1 and Stage 2 Skipton Fund applications. The Stage 2 claim was made arising from confirmation of "significant cirrhosis" by Dr Savita Rangarajan after an abdominal ultrasound on 27th January 2005.

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10. My father did not talk much about his health but he had a raft of health issues and spent a lot of his latter years in and out of hospital. I probably spent more time visiting my father in hospital than at home. My father's last hip operation failed and he ended up with one leg 3 to 4 inches shorter than the other. They tried fitting him with a built up shoe but it didn't really help. My understanding is that he had a bad reaction to the hip replacement. He ended up back in hospital and never recovered.
11. My father had thrombocytopenia, portal hypertension, splenomegaly (enlargement of the spleen) as well as liver disease. My stepmother passed away in **GRO-B** 2019 and I am dealing with her Probate. I now have a limited amount of my father's medical notes and records in my possession. I am vaguely aware that my father had cancer at some point and there are some bone scans amongst my father's medical records that I believe to be associated with his cancer diagnosis. Referring again to **Exhibit WITN3410002** according to the National Haemophilia data 'cancer' is stated as the cause of my father's death.
12. I find it hard to deal with my father's death. I feel angry and in disbelief that such a thing could have happened. To have your life taken away because of infected blood products is incredible and very hard to accept.
13. My father retired at 55 years old. Most of his retirement was spent in and out of hospital worrying about his health. He was robbed of the retirement he should have been free to enjoy with his wife. I have a brother and stepbrother. It impacted on the time we had with my father as we spent more time visiting him in hospital than he could spend visiting us.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

14. I do not know if my father was offered counselling and support. I do not believe that he would have accepted an offer of counselling. He was a war baby and old school.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

15. My father was paid the Stage 1 Skipton Fund ex gratia payment of £20,000 and the Stage 2 payment of £25,000 shortly before his death.

Section 8. Other Issues

16. There are no other issues.

Anonymity

17. I wish to remain anonymous.

18. 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.

GRO-B

Signed.....

Dated ...Friday, 6 September 2019.....