

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN2583002

Exhibit: WITN2583003

Dated: 6th January 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I provide this second 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 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. I work as an GRO-B.
2. My first witness statement to the Inquiry was dated 31st March 2019 and submitted on 4th April 2019 (WITN2583001).

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3. This is my second statement to the Inquiry concerning my later mother, **GRO-B** **GRO-B: M** and her illness after heart surgery at **GRO-B** **GRO-B**. She died on **GRO-B**.
4. In light of recent medical evidence becoming available from the **GRO-B** and **GRO-B** I would like to make this second witness statement.
5. When I made my first witness statement to the Inquiry, I was in contact with the Coroner's office at that time and had high hopes that in the absence of other medical evidence, they would have been able to provide me with information about my mother's death. My mother's medical records were unfortunately destroyed. I learned that my mother's death had been referred to the Coroner's office and this was the reason why my mother's death certificate was not issued until six months after her death.
6. Unfortunately, after attempting to get a reply from the Coroner's office on numerous occasions, they finally came back to me with what I can only describe as a fairly standard reply stating that they did not hold any specific records in relation to my mother's death and gave me a list of circumstances in which a death is referred to them. This was information which I could easily have obtained from the internet.
7. Around this time, I attended the first day of the Inquiry hearings in **GRO-B** along with my sister and listened to some harrowing experiences of fellow affected and infected people. One pertinent thing was that medical information had been withheld in a number of instances and in fact, one participant received information only a matter of days before they were due to provide evidence to the Inquiry.
8. On the same day, I spoke to one of the other witnesses and he introduced me to a lady from the **GRO-B**. Because of the restraints on the day, I gave this person a very brief outline of my position, my mother's operation and date of death and asked if she could possibly find any information pertaining to my mother's death. I followed this up in an email with a bit more

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detail as to approximate dates along with some personal detail. This was back in GRO-B

9. I waited to hear from the GRO-B but no information became available.

2. Further medical records

1. I had a family bereavement in GRO-B and I think this prompted me to make contact again with the GRO-B I could not believe when I was told that a hand written entry in a theatre book and the Anaesthetist's report had been located. They told me that they would release this information to my solicitor, 'Watkins and Gunn' and said that they would also let me have a copy.
2. I was very excited about receiving this information, but I also questioned whether or not I or my solicitor would have received the information had I not contacted the Trust again.
3. I received the Anaesthetist's report exhibited at WITN2583003 through the post and looked very briefly through what had been sent to me. My eye was drawn to a box on the Anaesthetist's report entitled 'Blood'. I could see the abbreviations 'FFP' and 'PRC' and a tick beside these letters. I 'googled' these abbreviations on the computer and found their meanings i.e. FFP – fresh frozen plasma, PRC – packed red cells. The enormity of the meaning of the abbreviations and the fact that they were ticked had a profound impact on my emotions. I was extremely relieved to have received the information and confirmation but also felt incredibly sad that my mother had at the time of her operation, been infected with in all likelihood, contaminated blood. This was only one week and two days after I was married.

3. Conclusion

1. Over the past few weeks since this information was received, I feel that I have been grieving for my mother all over again. The information, which had been

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described as 'small', had gone a long way to explaining my mother's illness and subsequent death. It has however, raised many questions in my mind as to why this information was not available earlier in the process.

2. I hope the Inquiry will be able to provide some answers to the questions this information has raised, such as:- Have I been drip-fed some information? Is there any further information which had not been made available to my family? Was the GRO-B using contaminated blood products in operations in GRO-B? Is it possible that my mother was infected at the time of her operation and died just three months after her operation from liver failure? Is it possible that doctors were aware of the reason as to why my mother was re-admitted with jaundice within one month of her operation and did not pass this information to my family? Was there anything doctors could have done at the time which would have reversed the effect of having received contaminated products or was the damage to her liver and immune system irreversible?
3. I think at this point, I would just like someone to explain to me in simple terms the likely scenario of my mother's treatment and subsequent death so that I can begin to come to terms with the loss after GRO-B years.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed.

GRO-B

Dated.....06..01..2020.....