

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1561001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: November 2018

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT GRO-B

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I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B. I was born on GRO-B and I live at GRO-B.  
GRO-B. I am married and have two children. I am a GRO-B for a GRO-B. I write this statement on behalf of my late father, GRO-B: F date of birth GRO-B. My father's last known residential address is GRO-B.  
GRO-B.
2. My father was a haemophiliac. He was GRO-B when he passed away in GRO-B in GRO-B. He moved to GRO-B. I was told after his death that he passed away from liver cancer resulting from Hepatitis C (Hep C).
3. I am therefore finding it difficult to obtain his medical records. I do not have a copy of his death certificate and I do not know if I will be able to obtain it. My father married GRO-B times. My GRO-B wife passed away in or about GRO-B so I am unable to contact anyone in GRO-B to assist me.

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4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's full medical records. For the reasons set out above.

### Section 2. How Affected

5. I believe my father had Haemophilia A. I am unable to confirm the severity of his condition. Haemophilia runs in my family.
6. I believe he was under the care of Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield (RHHS) as an outpatient when he was in the UK. I am not sure the name of his treating doctor.
7. In or about the late 1970s or early 1980s my father had a tooth extracted at RHHS. I believe this was the first time he was given Factor 8 (FVIII) products. I believe he was given FVIII before, during the extraction.
8. I also recall my father attended RHHS in the late 1970s and or early 1980s when he had his GRO-B. I believe that it is possible that during this time, he was also administered FVIII.
9. I recall in the mid 1980s my father had a lot of nosebleeds, and I believe when he visited the hospital each time he was given FVIII.
10. My mother informed me that she does recall that my father had injections in or about the 1990s. I do remember my father having injections and there being a yellow needle bucket. I did not ask at the time what the injections were for.
11. I am unable to confirm what information or advice was provided to my father when he received the infected blood products. I am not sure if any information was provided to my father about infected blood products.
12. I believe my father was infected with Hep C as a result of infected blood products.

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13. I believe my father only found out about the Hep C when he was in [GRO-B] in or about 2000. I am unable to confirm how the information was communicated to my father, as my father did not tell me or my half-siblings that he was Hep C positive. I believe that my father only provided limited information about his infection to his father and brother. Unfortunately, my grandfather has passed away, so I am unable to get any further information about my father's diagnosis.

14. My father came over to the [GRO-B] for my [GRO-B]. When he came over, I recall a zipper bag that he brought with him that had tall medication. I recall my father telling me that he was spending a lot of money in [GRO-B] [GRO-B] but he did not tell me the reasons why and I did not question him further about this.

15. As previously stated, I was not aware that my father had Hep C until after his death. I was told he had liver cancer, but that was all I knew. It was only when the Inquiry was in the news that my cousin told me that my father had died from liver cancer as a result of Hep C infection.

16. My father did not like to disturb anybody in relation to his medical condition. As previously stated, my father confided in my grandfather and my uncle about being Hep C positive and when he died my grandfather and uncle started to tell the family, but we were provided with limited information.

17. I cannot recall who told me he got liver cancer from drinking alcohol but I knew my father had not drunk since he went to [GRO-B] so I believe this information was wrong.

### **Section 3. Other infections**

18. I do not know if my father was infected with any other infections from infected blood products.

**Section 4. Consent**

19. I do not know if my father was tested or treated without his knowledge or consent. As previously stated my father did not find out that he was Hep C positive until he was in [GRO-B] in or about 2000, so it is a possible that he was tested and/or treated without his knowledge.

20. I believe he was tested and treated without adequate information.

21. I am not sure if he was tested for the purposes of research, but he may have been.

**Section 5. Impact**

22. I am not sure how my father was affected after he tested positive for Hep C. As previously stated my father was very private about his medical conditions. However, I feel there are a lot of questions that are still not answered. I was crossed that it was kept from the family, but that was my father's decision. I was angry when I found out that he was Hep C positive after his death.

23. My father returned to the [GRO-B] a few years after [GRO-B] and I noticed that he was very thin and frail. I did not question him at the time. I am aware that my father continued to deteriorate because every time we talked he told me that he was always tired and he said that it did not help that where he worked in a [GRO-B] there was poor ventilation.

24. I do not know if my father was taking medication in relation for Hep C. There is a possibility that the medication he bought with him when he attended my [GRO-B] was for Hep C, but I am unable to confirm this.

25. I believe my father put off getting any medical health treatment in [GRO-B] because of the cost of his [GRO-B] and treatment. I believe my



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grandfather sent my father some money to help towards his medical treatment for his Hep C.

26. I do not know how it impacted on his family life but he did keep it a secret from me. When I found out that he had Hep C I felt very angry with the whole situation. It was a hidden condition that was not known. I do not know if there was a way of curing Hep C.

27. This has impacted my father's side of the family, as I have other family members who suffer from hemophilia. My nana regrets that she could not get him the help that he needed and this is really upsetting for her.

28. I am not sure if my father's infection had any financial, educational or work related effects. His infection did not affect me as I did not know he was infected and by then he had already remarried.

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

29. I am not aware if any counselling was offered.

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

30. I do not believe my father received any money from any Trusts, but I know my grandfather applied to the Skipton Fund on behalf of my GRO-B because they were still dependent. I believe a lump sum payment was made from Skipton and split between my two GRO-B I am not sure how much money they received.

31. My grandfather informed me that I could apply for the Skipton Fund in or about 2012. I wrote to Skipton and they said because my GRO-B and I were over the age of 18 we were not eligible. I did not pursue this further.

**Section 8. Other issue**

32. I have not been involved in any previous litigation or campaign groups.

33. I would like to know what happened to my father and when my father was infected with Hep C through the infected blood products and why he was not told about it earlier.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

34. I confirm that I do wish to apply for anonymity.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed..

GRO-B

Dated

28/11/18