

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1234005

Exhibits: WITN1234006-WITN1234011

Dated: May 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I, GRO-B will say as follows: -

1. I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 2 May 2019.
2. My husband, David GRO-B DOB GRO-B 1959, died on GRO-B 2000 at the age of 40 after being infected with HIV and Hepatitis C through contaminated blood products.
3. At paragraph 85 of my first written statement I confirmed that I made a complaint to the MacFarlane Trust (MFT) about Meg Openshaw who worked at the Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) as a Haemophilia Nurse.
4. We always had problems with Meg. She was a gossip. She would share information about other people when she came round to the house which I ignored because it was none of my business but which I was also aware breached patient confidentiality.
5. I remember on one occasion Meg called to say that another haemophiliac had died. She would provide information that was confidential about the death under the guise of being supportive to the haemophiliac community.

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6. David and I started Birchgrove Manchester and Meg attended meetings. At every meeting she was taking back information to the doctors at the hospital. Things that were said in meetings were taken back and shared with staff at MRI. It felt like we were being spied on.
7. This behaviour had gone on for 6 years. If I had been given a grant for a washing machine Meg would tell the next person she saw that I had had a grant and what for.
8. Everyone knew my business even though I did not know it then. We were even told details of what was happening in other people's personal lives such as relationships.
9. Matters came to a head when I attended a meeting of bereaved families on 23 Sept 2001 in Sheffield. This was organised by the MFT.
10. I chatted with a number of widows and it turned out all of us similar concerns about Meg; she was breaching confidentiality. At the meeting it was decided that our concerns would be taken back to the MFT Trustee Board. The widows spoke about what had happened and wrote everything down.
11. The MFT drew up a report. A copy of the report provided to the Trustees of the MFT is now shown to me marked **WITN1234006**. The report was primarily concerned with concerns about Meg's behaviour but also extended to concerns about the general levels of treatment and support available at MRI.
12. Ann Hithersay was the Chief Executive of the MFT at the time. The report was considered by the Trustees at meetings in November 2001 and February 2002 and was shared with the Chief Executive of the Haemophilia Society. A copy of the memo regarding this is exhibited at **WITN1234007**.
13. It was decided that a copy of the report would be sent to Dr Hay (Centre Director at MRI) in advance of it being shared with the Chief Executive of

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Central Manchester/Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust.
Copies of the relevant letters are exhibited at **WITN1234008**.

14. **GRO-D** Lead Nurse from the Surgical Specialities Directorate at MRI, was asked to investigate as set out in her letter to Ann Hithersay marked **WITN1234009**.
15. I remember meeting with **GRO-D** after being invited to (please see exhibit **WITN1234010**) and I decided at that stage it was going to be a white wash. It felt like there was no proper investigation and that the hospital just wanted to keep a lid on things.
16. I asked a lot of questions like why David had 2 sets of case notes, why his HIV status was documented on the front of his notes etc. These were my individual questions for **GRO-D** which I wanted answering. When I met with **GRO-D** I felt that she was putting the burden on me to prove what had happened.
17. I received a formal response from Dr Hay in December 2003 and attach a copy of this letter at **WITN1234011**.
18. After I received Dr Hay's letter I backed off. I felt like I couldn't copy anymore. I had had a breakdown in late 2000 and was only just starting to pick up the pieces. I was trying to get back to work and didn't feel I was in a place where I could take matters any further.
19. As far as I know nothing was done about Meg.

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20. I wish to remain anonymous to protect my wider family.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed...

GRO-B

Dated 21/5/2019,