

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1663001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: April 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 and I live at GRO-B
GRO-B I was born on GRO-B 1983. I am married and have 3 children. I work as a GRO-B
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's full medical records.
3. I am aware that my mother, GRO-B my GRO-B brother GRO-B
GRO-B and my uncle, GRO-B: U (who was also infected), and his wife, GRO-B and my cousin GRO-B all intend to provide statements to the Inquiry.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My father had severe Haemophilia A. He received Factor VIII blood products and died when GRO-B GRO-B The doctors assumed that GRO-B

ANONYMOUS

and I were infected because of our age. We were told it was pure luck that we were not infected.

5. I was told that my father was told that he had been infected with something from the blood. Details of my father's infection are described in my mother, GRO-B statement in more depth.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I am not sure if my father had any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

7. I do not know if my father had knowledge of, or gave his consent to, being tested or treated for his infections.
8. From my understanding, my father and his brother, U were just used as 'guinea pigs'.
9. Further details of my father's consent are described in my mother, GRO-B GRO-B statement.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

10. Details of my father's condition and the impact of his infections are described in more depth in my mother, GRO-B statement.
11. Our quality of life was horrible at that time. We were only about GRO-B when our father got ill and we could not understand why at that age. I remember GRO-B and I used to sit in Cardiff Hospital and do colouring in books while we waited for our father has his appointments.
12. I remember my father being in a wheelchair for a period of his life. It became harder for him to play with me and my brother GRO-B and I think he preferred to

ANONYMOUS

distance himself from us in order to reduce any risk of transmitting his infection to us.

13. We just did not get enough time with him. Even the time we did get was blighted by his infection and its resultant effect on his health. We could not do anything with our father; even going to the park. Although my father could not do all these things we would have liked with us, he did still spoil us, probably to compensate for this. [GRO-B] and I got handheld Gameboy's for example.
14. On our [GRO-B] which was about 5 months before he died, our father told Professor Bloom that he was leaving the hospital and coming home; something that Professor Bloom said he could not do. Dad refused to listen and was determined to come home regardless. He was sick the whole way home and afterwards, at the end of the day, we took him straight back to hospital as he was in a terrible state. He knew it was [GRO-B] birthday that he would see and I think that was why he was so determined to come home.
15. My father, [GRO-B: F] died just before Christmas and so [GRO-B] and I have always hated Christmas. We only do Christmas now for the children.
16. [GRO-B] and I never knew anything other than our father being ill and so we knew nothing different; we did know when he got a lot worse though. I remember more about him from after he died rather than before.
17. [GRO-B] and I were robbed of our childhood and we are still bitter about it to be honest. It was difficult and unfair.
18. Life just became like a big lie and it still is really. We could not tell anyone about my father's infection and even now, we have to keep it a secret. People try and dig and ask questions about my father.
19. After our father's death it all kicked off in school. [GRO-B] and I would get picked on after our father died. People would make fun of us for not having a father and we would get into a lot of fights.

ANONYMOUS

20. The school would put us out of the way in a separate room to calm us down. We were so aggressive and wanted to just fight everyone. Everyday we were in a fight and if one of us got into a fight, the other would jump in too. We used to take our anger out all the time on everyone and on everything. We were both just very angry young boys.
21. We lost our grandfather too as he could not deal with everything going on either and so also distanced himself from our family. The first Christmas after our dad died he delivered presents to the back door but could not come in.
22. After our dad died, we lost contact with our Uncle [U] with everything going on. Everyone was grieving and so we did not all see each other as much; it would just bring back thoughts and memories.
23. My mother told me about my father's infection when I was 18, however she made me stay quiet and she only told [GRO-B] when he was 21 as he was struggling with drug and alcohol abuse. He used them as a coping mechanism.
24. I became very withdrawn and distant. I would not come out of my room or speak to anyone for a few days at a time. Even the last few months, from around December 2018, every few weeks I would just shut down and was not interested in anything. It has happened about 5 or 6 times over a 2 month period. This is when my mother took me to get help and I am on anxiety medication and take depression tablets. With all the news and Facebook information I was really overwhelmed.
25. [GRO-B] and I missed out on a proper education and we did not even really go to school from about [GRO-B] We used to rebel against everything and just wanted to fight the system.
26. From about [GRO-B] [GRO-B] and I used to do drugs together until we were about 18/19 year olds. We both still drink quite heavily; I need to drink just to

help me sleep. My mum helped me come off some of the drink but it keeps playing in my mind.

27. We used to go out together; we did everything together. We have always worked together; even to this day. [GRO-B] and I are very close. Once, he tried to commit suicide and my mother phoned me explaining that [GRO-B] had gone and left a note, she told me to go and find him. I straight away had a feeling that I knew where [GRO-B] was. I had never been there before and I do not know how I knew, but he was there. We do not even talk to each other about all of this but we know what each other is thinking.

28. Only my wife knows about all of this. I have not told my father-in-law who lives with us. I do not tell anyone. I record relevant stuff on the TV and then watch it when everyone has gone to sleep.

29. There was a lot of stigma online and it used to really make me angry so I just turned it off and stopped checking it. It became second nature to cover things up. I would turn the news off in case someone would question me as to why I was watching things about contaminated blood. I was and still am paranoid about people finding out.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

30. My mother sent me to counselling with [GRO-B] when we were around [GRO-B] [GRO-B] around 1994 but I never really participated. I was not interested.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

31. I do not know if my father ever received any financial assistance.

32. Further details of this are described in my mother, [GRO-B] statement.

Section 8. Other Issues

ANONYMOUS

33. We are just tired of this whole thing going on; there seems to be no end to it all. I do not even believe the Inquiry will pin this scandal down on anyone as it is just impossible to do.

34. I will never accept what happened but it is time for closure now. That is what we all want.

35. Over the years I have just got more and more bitter; especially after doing more research and finding out more information about this.

36. When my wife needed a blood transfusion, I was so worried and anxious because of this scandal. I was panicking so much. This is what all this has caused.

Anonymity

37. I wish to remain anonymous.

38. 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.

Signed

GRO-B

Dated

29/4/19