

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN1664001

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** and my uncle, **GRO-B: U** (who was also infected), his wife **GRO-B** and my cousin **GRO-B** all intend to provide statements to the Inquiry.

Section 2. How Affected

4. Details of my father's infection are described in my mother, **GRO-B** statement in more depth.
5. My father had severe Haemophilia A and received Factor VIII blood products.

6. I was told that my father was told that he had been infected with something from the blood. He died when [GRO-B] and [GRO-B]
7. The doctors assumed that [GRO-B] and I were infected because of our age. We were told it was pure luck that we were not infected.

Section 3. Other Infections

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

Section 4. Consent

9. I do not know if my father had knowledge of, or gave his consent to, being tested or treated for his infections.
10. From my understanding, my father and his brother, [U] were treated as a big experiment.
11. Further details of my father's consent are described in my mother, [GRO-B] [GRO-B] statement.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

12. Details of my father's condition and the impact of his infections are described in more depth in my mother, [GRO-B] statement.
13. 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 distance himself from us in order to reduce any risk of transmitting his infection to us.

ANONYMOUS

14. He did not want us to see that he was getting ill. I remember once he got up out of his wheelchair and kicked a ball around with me and [GRO-B] Little did we know it almost killed him to do just that.
15. We just did not get enough time with him. Even the time we did get was blighted in effect by his infection and its resultant effect on his health. He could not spend the time with us so much. [GRO-B] and I were robbed of our childhood and we are still bitter about it to be honest.
16. My father could not even do normal things like take us to school. We relied on our Mum and our Nan (we had 2 Mam's). We had to see him fade away. I used to think he was awake as he was sitting in his wheelchair, but have been told that he was asleep with his eyes open.
17. 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 still try it on and say that he died of AIDS but I always say No, he died of cancer. Sometimes you know they don't believe you.
18. [GRO-B] and I would get picked on at school after our father died. People would make fun of us for not having a father and we would get into a lot of fights. At school I just used to sit and look out of the window at our house and some of the teachers could not cope with us.
19. We even used to take our anger out at home and punch the doors in frustration. We were both just very angry young boys.
20. I remember [GRO-B] and I used to sit in Cardiff Hospital and do felt pen drawings while we waited for our father having his appointments. It was normal for us to go back and forth to Cardiff Hospital and take our homework. I remember that we used to practice our times tables in the car on the way home.
21. Although my father could not do all this things he would have liked with us, he did still spoil up, probably to compensate for this. [GRO-B] and I got handheld

ANONYMOUS

Gameboy's for example. We could not go on holiday after we were around 5 years old as he was too ill. I just keep thinking this did not need to happen.

22. On [GRO-B] which was around 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.

23. We cannot even look back on pictures from how we remember dad in our childhood as he was, and looked, so ill. I have a photo of my dad in my bedroom on the side of the bed but I don't like looking at it.

24. I do not think I ever properly grieved for my father. It was always just been anger, which became even worse after we found out about why our father really died. My mother told [GRO-B] about my father's infection when he was 18, however I was only told when I was 21 as I was struggling with drug and alcohol abuse. I used them as a coping mechanism.

25. My father, [GRO-B: F] died just before Christmas and so [GRO-B] and I have always hated it. We only do Christmas now for the children.

26. I believe that I suffer from slight Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) as I have to have things in a particular way and I believe this is because it was like that when my father was around. We used to have to be very careful and wipe things down and check all the doors were locked three times before we went to bed. I have to make sure that all tins are correctly arranged on a shelf, a plaque on the wall is perfectly centred and that food is rotated in the chest freezer so that the oldest is on the top. Now these are habits and something that I must regularly do. My OCD becomes worse when I get upset.

27. [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.

28. I sat all my GCSE's but I did not know much. I passed Design and Technology, Religious Education and Art. A teacher once told me that once I finish my GCSE's, they never want to see either me [GRO-B] on school premises again. I can't do pen and paper but I can make anything and started work at 16 in electronics and have always worked.

29. [GRO-B] and I used to drink and do drugs together from about 14 to 18/19 years old. We used to go out together; we did everything together. I tried ecstasy, cocaine, marijuana and acid. We both still drink quite heavily. I still drink about 12 cans of Stella or Carlsberg a night or I can't shut off. I sleep very little. Every now and again I shut off and have a bender and suffer the consequences.

30. We have always worked together; even to this day. We are very close. I tried to commit suicide once but [GRO-B] came and found me. I was very depressed and did not know how to deal with it all.

31. Only my wife knows about all of this but not her wider family. I do not tell anyone.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

32. My mother sent me to counselling with [GRO-B] in 1994 but I never really participated. I was not interested and I like to be left alone.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

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

ANONYMOUS

34. Further details of this are described in my mother, statement.

GRO-B

Section 8. Other Issues

35. 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. The civil service and the government are responsible.

36. I believe that he was basically murdered as they purposefully gave it to him. I will never accept what happened but it is time for closure now. That is what we all want.

37. Over the years I have just got more and more bitter; especially after doing more research and finding out more information about this. I think there are still documents going missing and people suffering and this is prolonging it. It is not fair.

Anonymity

38. I wish to remain anonymous.

39. 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...

29/4/17