

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1785001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: May 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. I was born on GRO-B and I live at GRO-B GRO-B.
2. I am a student, studying music at GRO-B.
3. I make this statement on behalf of my mother, GRO-B: M who has also procedure a witness statement, GRO-B for the Inquiry. My mother was born on GRO-B and was infected with Hepatitis C (Hep C) and Hepatitis B (Hep B).
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my mother's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Affected

5. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

Section 4. Consent

7. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

8. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to part of this section.

9. My mother suffered mental and physical effects as a result of the infections. She had far less energy and could not go about her daily life. The fact that she kept it a secret from everyone made it difficult for her too as she was not able to speak to any one about it. Even now when she gets a cold or any illness, I know it is directly related to the infections. Even though she has cleared the Hep C, she still suffers from the aftermath of it.

10. I do not know what treatment my mother received but she was very poorly during treatment and her day-to-day life was affected. She degenerated so much during treatment. She did not know how she was going to survive at all but fortunately she did. She is still poorly and gets sick even now. Her immune system seems to get lower and lower. During treatment, she kept everything to herself which mentally affected her.

11. Had my mother waited 1 or 2 years longer for the treatment, she would have been given a better treatment, with less side-effects but she felt she was unable to wait that long as she had suffered from too many symptoms from the infections, and was afraid to die.

12. My mother's infected status impacted on her private, family and social life. We have a very small family and I have never met my father as GRO-B
GRO-B GRO-B because of Hep C before I was born and so there has been too much going on in the family for anyone to have a conversation about what was happening to my mother. There has not been

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much family support as horrible things have happened in my family from generation to generation. My mother tries to get on with life as much as she can. She thinks she was affected the most. Her history is so soaked in her trauma and she does not want to speak to me much about it either as she does not want to burden me anymore than she thinks she already has. She feels a lot of guilt for putting me through everything that has happened and she blames herself a lot for it, even though I know it all happened without her choice. The fact that she cannot work more than part-time hours makes her feel like her happiness for the rest of her life is somewhat restricted financially. It is less likely that she will ever be able to move to a house where she is comfortable, or go and see the world as much as she would want to and even eat well regularly. Her freedom has been taken away as a result of the infection.

13. My mother's infected status has affected me physically, mentally and emotionally and impacted on my private, family and social life. I grew up around this scandal and so while growing up I had a bit more emotional maturity than everyone else as I have been through the pain. At school, I was very isolated and I felt quite useless which still continues. I had to care for my mother as a child and as a result had to grow up quick. I feel emotional when I think about everything that happened. It is difficult for me. I find it deeply upsetting. I have a girlfriend but I have not been able to tell her a thing about what happened in my life. I have not had any opportunities to talk to any of my family members about this either. The fact that my mother is poorly and my [GRO-B] has torn my family of all happiness. I found it hard to talk to people as there was no support available. I suffered from depression and anxiety and therefore I was referred twice to the [GRO-B]. [GRO-B] My mental health has been really bad growing up. When I was only [GRO-B] I received counselling. At [GRO-B] I felt like I was having an existential crisis. I did not feel the point in anything. At [GRO-B] suffered a lot of time with depression and spent months in my room locked up. I would not even get up to wash. Now, I have terrible anxious spells. I have struggled throughout my entire childhood, and continue to struggle now.

14. There was and is a stigma attached to the infections and that was one of the reasons why I had to keep my mother's infected status private. My mother also asked me to keep it private and I am fulfilling her wishes. I have not told my girlfriend. I don't particularly want to tell her, but I hate concealing the emotions I feel, or redirecting them to something less ambiguous.
15. I have suffered educational effects as a result of my mother's infections. I believe there is a link between what happened to my mum and my results. I had the mentality that if I got bad grades then I would give up and so I knew I had to do well. In some exams I did really well, but in some exams I wrote nothing in the exam. I got an GRO-B in GRO-B but GRO-B my GRO-B GRO-B which I needed to pass to get into 6th form. There is no correlation there and I believe it was the anxiety, depression and overwhelming pressure of what happened to my mother at the time as to why I did not pass my GRO-B exam. It continued into A-levels and continues now at university. I put a lot of pressure on myself to be good at everything.
16. My mother suffered work-related and financial effects as a result of the infections and still does. She takes a lot of time off work as she is constantly ill. She also could not work more than part-time hours which had an effect on us financially. She will never be able to work full time again.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

17. I do not remember my mother ever receiving care and support as a result of what happened. I do not think she ever got to have a conversation with anyone about it. To my knowledge, she was not offered any counselling or psychological support. She really would have benefitted from having somebody to talk to.
18. I was offered counselling only after I had suffered from depression caused by what had happened to my mother. I first had counselling when I was in about

GRO-B and then GRO-B I have been referred at least GRO-B different times. But this was not offered as a result of the infection.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

19. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

20. I wish to remain anonymous.

21. 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 27/5/19