

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1793001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: July 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

GRO-B will say as follows:-

**Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is GRO-B and I live with my wife at GRO-B GRO-B  
GRO-B My date of birth is  
GRO-B 1939.
2. I make this statement in relation to my sons, GRO-B: S1 (DOB GRO-B 1969)  
and GRO-B: S2 (DOB GRO-B), who have both been infected with HIV  
and Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.
3. GRO-B
4. My wife, GRO-B has also provided a statement to the Inquiry.
5. This statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to  
S1 and S2 full medical records.

**Section 2. How Affected**

6. s1 and s2 both suffer from severe Haemophilia A.
7. They were treated at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and at Royal Free Hospital. They were both treated with Cryoprecipitate from a young age.
8. When s2 was very small there was a period when he kept crying when we put him down so I got fed up and asked GRO-B to take him to hospital to find out what was wrong. The next day they put him in isolation and didn't tell us why. He was yellow and was infected with Hepatitis.
9. When the doctors said that a new treatment, Factor VIII concentrate, was available I asked them specifically not to administer it. I remember going to the hospital with one of the boys, maybe s2 and I told the doctor to keep me informed and made it clear I did not want the boys treated with Factor VIII. I was told that the product came from America and I have always believed the Americans are slap dash. I did not want the product administered to them. They had always been treated with Cryoprecipitate previously and I wanted them to continue on this treatment.
10. When I next went into the hospital 2 or 3 days later the doctors told me that the boys had both been treated with Factor VIII on numerous occasions and that Cryoprecipitate was being phased out. The latter turned out to be a lie and they went against my wishes.
11. I was never told whether there was a risk involved but I never wanted the boys to be treated with Factor VIII. The doctors administered Factor VIII without our consent and I still feel guilty about it. I still wonder whether it would have made a difference if I had gone to solicitors about my concerns at the time or had put something in writing saying that I did not want them to be treated with factor products. I get worked up and stressed just thinking about it.

12. [s1] and [s2] were both infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of receiving Factor VIII.

13. I recall finding out that the boys were infected with HIV in the middle of a foyer at the hospital. One of the staff just blurted out the news to us: *"Do you want the HIV results? They're both positive."* My wife and I looked at each other and didn't know what they were talking about. We were not invited to a follow up consultation in this regard which is unacceptable.

14. We later found out they were both infected with Hepatitis C as well.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

15. I do not know whether [s1] or [s2] were exposed to any other infections following treatment with Factor VIII.

### **Section 4. Consent**

16. Both boys were tested without our knowledge and certainly without our consent. We knew that bloods were taken by the hospital for tests but there were no discussions about what the tests were or what they meant.

17. Both boys were treated with Factor VIII without our knowledge and without our consent.

### **Section 5. Impact**

18. When we were first told both boys had HIV it was just a word. We didn't understand what it really meant and no one took the time to explain it to us.

19. Some time later, during an appointment at the Royal Free Hospital we were told that the boys had about 5 years to live. I think at this point we began to understand how serious the infections were. Until this point we were provided with no information to base our opinions on. Every time the boys would

sneeze we would wonder whether it was the start of the 5 year countdown. We were not given any signs to look out for and it was a constant worry.

20. Many times we thought that they were dying when they were feeling unwell. Their bleeds didn't show up straight away after a knock or fall sometimes which meant that it was difficult to manage their bleeds.

21. When s1 and I heard that the GRO-B had crashed, it hit me like a brick that s2 was on it. We heard nothing until late at night when the phone rang and it was him. A few days later there was a knock on the door and it was s2. I was so worried about him s2 and I do not get on as well as we used to. I miss him very much but he keeps his distance. I just want to know how he is doing and why he closes himself off from me. I know both s1 and s2 are stressed and I think it is unbelievable how they deal with things on a daily basis.

22. It has been very hard living with the knowledge that the boys couldn't have kids. I cannot have grandkids and go on walks with them or take them out. That privilege has been taken away from me. I try to get on as best as I can but its hard and I get so angry about what has happened.

23. I feel so angry because they have lied to us so many times. They knew the truth but covered it up.

24. When the boys were involved in the 1991 litigation they sent all of their medical records to America and were told that it would cost £500.00 each to get them back. I feel like we have been unable to fight anyone and the hardest part was that we were unable to tie the blame to one specific person. They were all very evasive.

25. I worked for a gas board for over 40 years. I was on 24 hour calls every 3 weeks. We struggled financially.

26. The boys don't speak to each other which is horrible for me every day. They should be stuck together like glue not torn apart and it hurts me so much that



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what has happened has torn them apart. This scandal is to blame because it is so hard to deal with. Life is too short for them to be arguing over this but anger is the hardest part for us all.

27. What has happened has also impacted on my marriage. [GRO-B] and I end up having a go at each other for no reason because we are both stressed.

### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

28. I have not received any counselling or support. I believe this is the same with my wife and the boys.

29. I do not want to go to counselling and I do not want it to be offered to me. It is my life and it is private so I will get on with it. My coping mechanism is laughter and I keep my feelings to myself despite finding this situation incredibly difficult to deal with.

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

30. We were told that we could claim for toothpaste and a bar of soap for the boys every week. It was an insult to me.

31. The boys were part of the 1991 HIV litigation and we signed the waiver which we were asked to do. We were offered approximately £23,000 each and we were told that unless we signed the waiver nobody would get any money.

32. [s2] wouldn't take the money from the later American pharmaceutical litigation and wrote them a letter telling them what they could do with the money [GRO-B]

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

33. A statement had been made by Edwina Curry "*Don't pay them out because there will be a lot of rich widows out there*" which is absolutely outrageous.

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34. The Inquiry isn't solving the problem. We need those people such as Kenneth Clarke, doctors, nurses and politicians to be answering questions. They think that a bit of money will solve everything which is far from the truth.
35. Kenneth Clarke was granted the funds to heat treat the blood but he decided not to. He thought people would die within 5 years so he spent the money on something else.
36. The blood that was out of date in the UK was suddenly shipped abroad as new blood to the third world countries. They have done an injustice and caused harm to so many people killing thousands. Why is no one responsible?
37. I want to know who has made the decisions to not heat treat the blood. People in the establishment know the truth but have lied and lied about it.
38. Why has France put the people responsible in prison? What will they do here for our people? I am angry and I want the answers. It is hard that I cannot fight back and that there is nothing we can do.
39. I am running out of energy to fight. We have fought our whole lives for this and only just achieved a Public Inquiry. My boys have fought every moment, for their health, for the truth, for justice and I am proud of them for it.

### **Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

40. I would like to apply to retain my anonymity and I understand this statement will be disclosed and published as part of the Inquiry.
41. I would not like 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 .....

Date..... 14th August 2019 .....