

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN2570001

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

### 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B My date of birth is GRO-B  
GRO-B  
GRO-B I live at this address with my wife GRO-B
2. I intend to speak about my infection of hepatitis C, which I contracted from infected blood products in the 1970's and 1980's. In particular, the nature of

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my illness and how the illness has affected me, the treatment I received and the impact it has had on my family and me. I also wish to speak about my brother [GRO-B: B1] infection of hepatitis C and how that has affected me. I also wish to mention my brother [GRO-B: B2] [GRO-B] from Hepatitis C which he contracted through treatment with contaminated blood

### 2. How Infected

1. It was in the [GRO-B] when I was diagnosed with Christmas disease. I believe it was [GRO-B] who diagnosed this. Later I was told I was a mild sufferer of Haemophilia A.
2. I remember in the late [GRO-B] I went to the [GRO-B] to have some treatment on my teeth and was given blood products.
3. I would also go into the [GRO-B] if I had a bump and would be given blood products in order to help with the internal bleeding. I know I received Factor VIII and Cryoprecipate blood products a few times in the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's and 1990's.
4. I can remember in 1973 I became jaundiced, was feeling sick and unwell for about six months. This cleared up but I didn't realise it was through contaminated blood products and was a symptom of hepatitis C.
5. Following my brother [B2] [GRO-B] of hepatitis C through an infected blood transfusion, I was invited by [GRO-B] [GRO-B] to go in for screening. I didn't know my brother had contracted this infection, he didn't tell me or any other family member.
6. I was invited back again to the hospital for the results where I was given the diagnosis of hepatitis C which I had contracted through contaminated blood infused into me. There is an entry in my medical records where it appears there was a "first" discussion about my diagnosis of Hepatitis C in

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April 1997. On this occasion, I learned my brother had contracted hepatitis C through contaminated blood too.

### 3. Other Infections

1. I have possibly contracted CJD.

### 4. Consent

1. Prior to me finding out about the hepatitis C, I would routinely have blood tests. I assumed it was because of the haemophilia. I am surprised to learn through my medical notes that it was known for some time I had contracted hepatitis C and I was not told of this until 2003.

### 5. Impact

1. When I was told I had contracted the hepatitis C through infected blood I was shocked. They told me there was some damage to my liver and didn't give me or my brother [B1] much hope. [B1] was diagnosed in 1985 but not told until after [B2] death in 2002 when we both went for screening.
2. I was offered treatment of Interferon more or less straight away. So didn't have much time to think about it. I was told about the side effects which I did suffer from some of them such as tiredness but it didn't have a massive effect on me as I was positive the infection would clear. This was the case. After a course of Interferon and Ribavirin the infection cleared.
3. Around about the same time I had been diagnosed with Follicular lymphoma and was more worried about this than the hepatitis C. Seeing patients deteriorate every day affected me more. I am a positive person and always look on the bright side.

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4. I think my diagnosis had more of an effect on my wife, **GRO-B** I know she was very worried about me at the time. But the cancer overtook the anxiety as we felt this was worse than hepatitis C. It is still at the back of mind that it may come back. The hospital are keeping an eye on it by regular blood tests every six months.
5. I do worry about my brother **B1** as he too was diagnosed with hepatitis C around the same time as me. **B1** has been affected greatly and I am more concerned about him.
6. My brother **B2** died from this infection and I worry I may lose **B1** because of how he as been affected and the way this has disabled him. I do know what can happen.
7. I am very thankful for my treatment as it could have been so different. I always think that if **B2** had his infected blood a year before me and that is why he died when he did. Maybe if he had it the same year as me, he would have been treated and cleared of the infection.

### 6. Treatment/Care/Support

1. I wasn't offered any support or counselling at the time of being diagnosed. I was told not to share razors and to be careful of any cuts because of cross contamination.
2. In all honesty, the hospital was very supportive and looked after me very well.
3. I was given the Interferon and Ribavirin treatment. After this course I was very fortunate the hepatitis C cleared, although it hasn't been said to me it has been cured 100%. As far as I am aware my liver is not in a bad state and it is healing as well as can be expected.

### 7. Financial Assistance

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1. I have received £20,000 from the Skipton fund and have quarterly payments of £1,000 from B50. GRO-B helped with the Skipton Fund.

### 8. Other Issues

1. Whilst I am grateful I have been cleared of the disease I do worry it may come back.
2. After my brother B2 death the hospital were very sorry and sympathetic about what had happened to him.

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## Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated 19/02/19