

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN2783001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: March 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 was born on GRO-B I live at GRO-B
GRO-B My son, GRO-B
GRO-B has also provided a witness statement for the Public Inquiry.

2. I make this statement as an affected person in relation to my late husband,
GRO-B: H, who was born on GRO-B and who passed away
aged only GRO-B on GRO-B as a result of receiving contaminated
Factor VIII.

3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access
to my husband's full medical records. I have been advised that my
husband's medical records have been destroyed.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My husband had Haemophilia A and received Factor VIII throughout his life
on an "as and when required basis".

5. My husband was initially treated at the GRO-B in Liverpool before his care was transferred to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. His consultant t
6. here was Dr Hey.
7. My husband was not provided with any information regarding the risks of receiving Factor VIII.
8. My husband contracted HIV as a result of receiving contaminated Factor VIII. I am unsure as to when my husband contracted HIV but he was told about his infection in 1984.
9. My husband attended a routine appointment in 1984 at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital with a consultant whose name I cannot recall. This consultant was flicking through my husband's medical records and came to a page which was marked with the words "HIV". The consultant just said the words "HIV" in a very matter of fact way and then continued to flick through the notes. My husband stopped him and said "*HIV, what is that? I did not know anything about that*". The consultant basically said words to the effect of "*yes you have this*". The consultant gave him absolutely no information or advice which would have allowed him to manage or understand this virus. My husband was given no information regarding the risks of transmission.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. As far as I am aware my husband was not exposed to any other infections such as vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

11. My husband was definitely tested for various viruses without his knowledge and therefore without his consent.

Section 5. Impact

12. My husband was a wonderful and loving man who would do anything for anyone. We had the most marvellous marriage, which lasted [GRO-B] years not including the [GRO-B] years we spent courting beforehand, and it was heart breaking to see how the HIV took hold of him and eventually claimed his life; far too early.
13. Our married life went on as normal until my husband found out about his HIV infection. I had to go and have an HIV test and the hospital telephoned me on Christmas Eve to tell me that I was ok. My husband just sat there crying with a broken heart. He thought that he might have given me HIV and that was when things changed.
14. Following this, my husband stopped kissing or hugging my son and me. He used to turn away from me at night and go to sleep with his back to me. This was very upsetting and I knew that he was only trying to protect me and that it was his way of caring. I used to reach out and cuddle him and he was all skin and bones towards the latter stages of his life. He literally went from being a big, strong man to a frail and weak one.
15. He would not discuss his HIV with me and if anything came on the news about this virus he would just turn the television off. I wish he had confided in me because I really wanted to help him and I think I could have helped his frail mental state.
16. He became extremely withdrawn and he stopped socialising. He was utterly distraught that he had HIV and he basically shut himself away from then on.
17. The medical professionals put him on AZT and this had some bad side effects and he used to have to take lots of tablets on a regular basis. I am not sure which tablets my husband was on though.

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18. He had to give up work in around 1985 due to the virus taking hold. I then gave up work shortly after this to look after him because his health plummeted. He was not able to walk forwards and instead he would end up walking backwards and I worried about him so much.
19. We suffered financially; firstly with the loss of his income and then mine and this had a knock on effect on our son. We stopped doing any family activities and spent a lot of the time indoors, in the house. We moved from a terrace house to a more expensive semi-detached property and this meant we had an extra cost anyway. Coupled with my husband having to give up work due to his viruses meant that the negative effect on the finances doubled.
20. Whilst my husband was still at work, I recall a time when he told me how his work colleagues had joked between themselves that they would never work with anyone who had HIV; unbeknown to them they were already doing that very thing by working with my husband. My husband was terribly upset by this but he did not show it.
21. He made me promise not to tell anyone about his infection and the only people he told were his

GRO-B
GRO-B

 and his sister.
22. I therefore suffered in silence and had nowhere to vent my anger at what happened and no one to share my sadness with. I dealt with everything alone whilst also trying to maintain an air of normality for our wonderful son.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

23. I recall that my husband and I attended a couple of group meetings at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital in the 1980s. This was some sort of help group and I recall that one of the doctors there, Dr McVerry, made the most derogatory comment to those attending to seek "*some so called support*" that my husband never went back. The words used by Dr McVerry were "*Homo*

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Haemo you can all start wearing handbags now". This comment was so horrific and sufficiently so for me to recall the doctor's name after all this time.

24. My husband was never offered any individual counselling or psychological support.

25. I was offered counselling after my husband passed away and I recall attending about 8 sessions but I did not find this at all helpful; no amount of talking could change what had happened.

26. I also recall that I used to have a lady whose name I think was GRO-B who would come and see me so I could vent my feelings.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

27. My husband did not receive any support from the Macfarlane Trust (MFT) whilst he was alive.

28. I received support from the MFT which commenced about 7 years ago. This was initially £300 per month and then after 3 years it rose to about £500 per month. However, last year it was reduced to about £417 per month.

29. My son did not receive any support from the MFT.

30. However, my son and I were part of the 1991 litigation in which my son and I received £16,000 and £44,000 respectively. As far as I can recall I did not sign a waiver although I was asked to. My son was only aged 17 at this time.

Section 8. Other Issues

31. I want people to be held accountable for their horrific actions. I want the truth and I want answers. My view is the Government murdered my husband; yes he died but it was at their hands and as a result of their torrid actions.

32. I am still very angry and I have not found peace.

Anonymity

33. I want to apply for anonymity and I do not wish to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed..

GRO-B

Dated.....

2. 4. 19