

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN1053001

Exhibit: N/A

Dated: 20 October 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I, **GRO-B** of **GRO-B** Kent **GRO-B** will say as follows:

Section 1: Introduction

1. I am the middle daughter of the late **GRO-B: F** who was born on the **GRO-B** 1928 in London and who died on the **GRO-B** 1991.
2. My father had severe haemophilia which was diagnosed at 18 months old. He suffered many painful bleeds which damaged many of his joints, which resulted in him walking with a limp and needing the use of a walking stick.
3. My father kept to himself and never told anyone about his haemophilia because of the lack of understanding about this disease.
4. I am the only child out three daughters with Von Willebrand disease (mild) which was only diagnosed in **GRO-B** in the last few years.

Section 2: How Affected

5. In the early 1980s, my father was given home treatments in order to treat his haemophilia by King's College Hospital in London. At the time, along with my mother and 2 sisters **GRO-B** and **GRO-B** we were happy that

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he was being given home treatments since this improved his quality of life, gave him better pain management and ensured that he spent less time in hospital when he became ill and had bleeds.

6. However, our happiness soon turned to horror a few short years later in 1986 when we discovered that he had contracted HIV from contaminated Factor VIII blood products given to him by King's College Hospital. It is believed that my father could have had the HIV virus for up to 3 years before his diagnosis in 1986.
7. My father's doctor delivered this diagnosis and he was told that the Factor VIII product had been contaminated. It was this treatment that was given to him by King's College Hospital and later as the home treatment he managed himself.
8. On top of this, my father was also told by King's College Hospital in the 1980s that he had contracted Hepatitis C. He had previously been told that he had jaundice and it was nothing to worry about.
9. We were devastated that the product which had given him so much more freedom and hope and overall a far happier outlook on life was actually seriously harming him. This product would eventually cost him his life.

Section 3: Other Infections

N/A

Section 4: Consent

10. I do not believe that there was any discussion about the potential risks of any treatment that my father received.

Section 5: Impact

11. At the time of my father's diagnosis, I was living with my parents with 2 young daughters GRO-B and GRO-B. Life was very difficult looking after my mother and 2 daughters whilst caring for my father who suffered hugely on a daily basis as a result of the viruses he had contracted.
12. I recall that we had absolutely no outside support and because of the stigma surrounding HIV, there was nobody that I could speak to outside of our family about my father's condition. My sisters and I would talk about it so we had each other for support. I felt totally cut off from society and could barely cope with the devastation of his illness. I suffered many breakdowns over the course of my years.
13. His illness became worse, his dependence on myself, my mother and sisters also increased. As a result of the pressure and stress I was placed under, I started to suffer from depression. I have countless bad memories of the suffering my beloved father endured and to this day, I still have nightmares of the pain he experienced and his poor health. I can also remember lifting him out of bed on many occasions as his condition deteriorated and I now wonder whether this has resulted in suffering badly from arthritis.
14. My father died in 1991 after a painful death where I witnessed my beloved father lose large amounts of blood through his nose and mouth. He ultimately died a long and cruel death which he did not deserve. I am saddened that my daughters can barely remember their grandfather since they were only 5 years old when he passed away.
15. My father held our family together like glue. After he died, my mother began to suffer with her nerves which sadly got worse over time and at times our mother found it difficult to cope.

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16. My parents were very proud people who were not afforded any help or assistance during the years. Our household was on a low income and despite that, my father would never go looking for handouts.

17. Then inevitably I began to suffer, it was akin to a domino effect throughout our family.

18. I can recall on one occasion that my father's doctor called to the house to check on him. This was not a regular occurrence. As my father was so afraid to go into hospital, he hid away in the bathroom and locked himself in.

19. His death will stay with me forever.

Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support

20. We received no outside support.

Section 7: Financial Assistance

21. In 2017 my two sisters and I received the Skipton Fund payment and shared it between the three of us.

Section 8: Other Issues

22. Myself, along with so many people have had to deal with the memories, the guilt, the sadness and anger for so long. Whilst I am happy that the Inquiry is taking place, I must admit that I've found it hard to listen to the medical professionals trying to justify their actions, have such a lack of empathy and their conviction that they knew what was best peoples families.

23. Why the use of Factor VIII blood products continued even after the trusts became aware that it was seriously harming and killing people? The hospitals were told to use up stocks of Factor VIII due to their cost yet the trusts were aware that the Factor VIII product was infecting thousands of innocent lives with

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viruses so why was this decision made to continue using this dangerous product?

24. I would also like to know why I and thousands of others have had to wait for this Inquiry for so long.

25. I hope the efforts taken on behalf of those that are infected and affected will help get to the truth eventually.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B _____

GRO-B

Dated 20.10.2021 GRO-B 20.10.21 GRO-B _____