

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN4458001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: June 2020

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 I am married with children and have two siblings, **GRO-B** who were born in **GRO-B** and **GRO-B** respectively.
2. I make this statement as an affected daughter of **GRO-B: M** who was born on **GRO-B** and was infected with Hepatitis C via contaminated Factor VIII concentrates. She has provided a witness statement to the Inquiry under witness number **GRO-B**.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my mother's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My [GRO-B] was born via a caesarean section the Hammersmith Hospital (HH), London, on [GRO-B]. My mother lost a lot of blood during this procedure and was therefore given Factor VIII concentrates and an injection of [GRO-B].
[GRO-B] [GRO-B]
[GRO-B]
[GRO-B] I understand that both the Factor VIII concentrates and the [GRO-B] were contaminated and I confirm that the batch numbers were [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] respectively.
5. I understand that my mother was under the care of Dr House and was not given any advice or information regarding the risk of infection from the above treatment.
6. As a result of receiving the above treatment, my mother was infected with Hepatitis C.
7. My mother began to experience various symptoms which included tiredness, headaches, aching limbs and depression in or around the early [GRO-B]. She felt that she had a "hopeless" immune system and struggled to digest food. I understand that my mother attended her GP in relation to these symptoms and I refer to paragraph 18 below of my witness statement.
8. My mother moved to [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] and was prompted to seek medical attention as a result of the above symptoms. She attended for a very basic health check and I understand that as a result of this, she was diagnosed with Hepatitis C and told about her infection, by a [GRO-B] clinician, in or around [GRO-B].
9. I understand that this clinician asked whether my mother had ever taken drugs to which her reply was "no". I believe that once further investigations were carried out, my mother was soon advised by the [GRO-B] clinicians that the treatment she had received in 1982 was contaminated and that this was

responsible for her Hepatitis C infection. My mother's treatment and subsequent care in relation to Hepatitis C, [GRO-B] was exemplary. I believe my mother was given sufficient information to enable her to both understand and manage the virus.

10. However, what I do find extremely disconcerting and almost unbelievable is how my mother, [GRO-B] [GRO-B] without any clinician or test picking up that she was infected with Hepatitis C. Furthermore, how was it possible for the Hepatitis C to remain undetected by [GRO-B] doctors for such a long period of time, yet was immediately picked up by [GRO-B] clinicians at a routine health check in [GRO-B]? I would be grateful if the Inquiry could look into how such matters occurred.

Section 3. Other Infections

11. I believe that my mother was only infected with Hepatitis C.

Section 4. Consent

12. I do not know whether my mother was tested or used for research purposes without her knowledge and therefore without her consent.
13. My mother was treated with Factor VIII concentrates and anti-d immunoglobulin without her informed consent.

Section 5. Impact

14. My early childhood with my mother was spent very happily. She had endless energy, imagination and was full of the joys of life. [GRO-B] [GRO-B] [GRO-B]

15. However, there definitely came a point where my mother's involvement, GRO-B

GRO-B lessened. She started relying heavily on various friends' mothers to take me to GRO-B shows GRO-B

GRO-B

GRO-B

16. One day I looked at my mother and saw that she was completely dead behind the eyes and displayed absolutely no enjoyment in life. As a young girl, I felt quite a lot of anger in relation to my mother's changed behaviour. I fully appreciate that teenage girls and their mother's relationships can be somewhat strained at the best of times, but I felt that what had happened between my mother and me was much more than that. At the time, I also thought that perhaps I had done something wrong.

17. I couldn't understand why she was always totally exhausted and lacked energy. She was also extremely emotional and absent which I found really frustrating. Unbeknown to anyone, Hepatitis C was wreaking havoc with my mother's life and affecting her behaviour. Things went from bad to worse when the extreme tiredness and exhaustion were compounded by brain fog. My mother then struggled to cope, had a nervous breakdown and developed severe depression.

18. At the time I think my mother went to see her GP regarding her worsening symptoms but was fobbed off with anti-depressants. It seems completely insane to me that the GP did not arrange for blood tests to be carried out; even to rule out something like Anaemia.

19. Sadly, the above changes in my mother's behaviour caused our relationship to suffer greatly and we are no longer close.

20. Growing up I did not really discuss matters with my siblings which I think was, in part, caused by the sizeable age gaps between us; GRO-B years between me and my GRO-B and GRO-B years between my GRO-B and I. Sadly, this lack of discussion spilled into our adult lives. I feel bad because I think I had the best years of our mother and I feel particularly sorry for my GRO-B It must have

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been so hard for [GRO-B] growing up; [GRO-B] was only aged [GRO-B] when our mother upped sticks and moved to [GRO-B]. On top of the emotional upset of our mother leaving the [GRO-B] had to [GRO-B] and deal with a daily barrage of questions from [GRO-B] peers which centred on [GRO-B] mother's [GRO-B]. My [GRO-B] and I had very different childhood experiences and I feel strange about both this and our relationship; it is likely that [GRO-B] feels the same. I think [GRO-B] is a little resentful of me and I feel a little guilty.

21. I wasn't living at home when my mother went to [GRO-B] so I was effectively more sheltered from the day-to-day logistical and emotional upset that her departure caused. The same applied for my [GRO-B] who was away at [GRO-B] at the time.

22. My poor father was left to deal with everything which cannot have been easy. Even today it is a difficult concept to come to terms with because a loving mother [GRO-B]. [GRO-B] Even though I now know what I know, it does not change the past or the damaging effects my mother's actions had upon the whole family.

23. Looking at things from my mother's perspective, I understand that she was effectively robbed of everything. She used to love working but her continued ability to do so, and the joy which it used to bring, was stolen by Hepatitis C.

[GRO-B]

Psychologically, I find her behaviour both frustrating and sad in equal measures. [GRO-B]

[GRO-B]

[GRO-B]

[GRO-B]

and

hopefully foster a better relationship with my mother; for all our sakes.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

24. My mother's care, support and treatment were not provided by the [GRO-B] however, in relation to matters which occurred in the [GRO-B] I would like to refer to paragraphs 10 and 18 above of my witness statement.

25. My mother was diagnosed and treated for Hepatitis C in [GRO-B] and I am not aware of any difficulties in relation to her accessing any medical or dental services. On the contrary, I believe that the [GRO-B] clinicians were extremely proactive and enrolled my mother on a treatment trial for Hepatitis C which was successful. It must have been reassuring for my mother to know that her health was finally being taken seriously.

26. As far as I am aware, my mother was never offered any counselling or psychological assistance in consequence of her infection with Hepatitis C. I confirm that I have never been offered anything in this regard.

27. My husband and I have attended [GRO-B] and I ended up [GRO-B] [GRO-B] I have to accept that my mother is not the person she used to be otherwise I face constant disappointment. However, it is really hard because, despite what happened, there have been times in my life when I really needed my mother and pleaded and begged her to come but she never did.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

28. My mother received the Stage 1 Payment of £20,000 from the Skipton Fund (SF) in the mid [GRO-B] and I refer to my mother's witness statement in this regard.

29. I have never received any financial or practical support from the SF. I get the distinct impression the SF's main aim was to "shut people up" but that is just my opinion because I did not have any personal dealings with them upon which to base the stated view.

Section 8. Other Issues

30. People should be able to trust the UK Government and the NHS; absolute transparency is required. Answers to this tragedy are long overdue; my mother was infected on **GRO-B** which is now almost **GRO-B** years ago to the day.

Anonymity

31. I do want to apply for anonymity and I am prepared to give oral evidence if it would assist the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed	GRO-B
Dated..... 7 July 2020.....	