

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name:

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3371001

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 I was born on GRO-B and I live at GRO-B
2. My brother, GRO-B: B (born on GRO-B), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He died after contracting liver cancer on GRO-B aged 66.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to B full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. B had severe Haemophilia A. He was treated at the Leeds Haemophilia Centre at the St James University Hospital (SJUH).

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5. [B] was treated with fresh frozen plasma and Cryoprecipitate initially. He then moved on to Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate from around the mid 1970s when he was in his late twenties.
6. There was no warning about risk of infection before [B] had the FVIII treatment. It was hailed as a great thing. [B] was able to inject himself at home. It was kept in the fridge. [B] and I were two of four brothers. We had two older twin brothers, [GRO-B: B2] and [GRO-B: B3] (born 1937). [B2] had haemophilia too. He died at a young age (before the introduction of FVIII concentrate).
7. I believe that [B] found out that he was infected with HCV some time in the 1980s. It was known as Non-A Non-B Hepatitis at that time. I do not know what he was told about living with HCV or how to handle it. We were living at the opposite side of Leeds at the time.
8. [B] led a relatively normal life and he kept me up-to-date in relation to any serious health related problems he had when we met up. [B] had a car and a mobility scooter and he made the most of his life. It was not until the summer of 2013 that he became aware of the very serious problem with his liver that led to his death a year later.
9. The following causes are noted on [B]'s Death Certificate (a) Hepatocellular Carcinoma; (b) Hepatitis C and (c) Haemophilia.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. I do not believe [B] was infected with anything other than HCV.

Section 4. Consent

11. I think that my brother must have known he was being tested for HCV. I do not believe he was ever tested for HIV.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

12. [B] led a relatively normal/full life notwithstanding his haemophilia. He was a divorcee having been married twice (once to a nurse). [B] had some good friends that he enjoyed spending time with to include holidays and day trips. [B] had a disabled (female) friend [GRO-B] and a very good friend in his next door neighbour. [B] planned to drive to Scotland with his next door neighbour for a bit of a holiday in the summer of 2013 to see some of the sights. About three days into the trip he had to come home because he was unwell and had an acute pain in his back. Some time after that, [B] called me with the news that he had liver cancer. The possibility of treatment to shrink the cancer tumours was proposed and, after a short amount of treatment, they told him that the liver was too deep set to continue. Given his age and haemophilia, it was thought that he would be unable to withstand an operation to try to remove the cancer. There was nothing they could do for him. By October or November 2013, [B] was told that he had just 10 to 12 months to live. He was holding a ticking time bomb. He went downhill so quickly after cutting his holiday in Scotland short and finding out that he had cancer.

13. To learn that [B] was terminally ill with cancer had a huge psychological impact on him. He was, however, very brave and stoic and resigned himself to the fact that there was nothing they could do for him. He just made the best of it and carried on doing what he could.

14. In July 2014, I had just returned home from a night out with my wife when I received a phone call from SJUH to inform me that [B] had been admitted. He was in agony. When I arrived at the hospital I was informed that [B]'s liver was packing in and he didn't have much longer. [B] was given the option of a hospice and the last 10 days of [B]'s life were spent at [GRO-B]. For the first week there he did reasonably well and I could even take him for a walk in the wheelchair to enjoy the garden grounds. He was asleep over the final days and I am unsure as to whether he

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was always aware that I was there. He was very yellow from jaundice and his eyes were completely bloodshot.

15. I was there all day the day [B] died. I left at about 5 pm having been assured I would be called if there was any change in his condition. SJUH is two bus rides and about an hour's journey from my home. I arrived home at 6 pm to receive a call when I had just walked through the door to go back. I did so and [B] passed away at about 8pm.

16. [B] was incredibly brave and did not deserve his untimely death through being contaminated with HCV. I met my cousin and his wife when they came to visit [B] at the hospice. They too remarked to me just how marvellous they thought [B] was in the way he faced up to what had happened to him. They were genuinely surprised at how upbeat and positive [B] was in just getting on with his condition. [B] was a great uncle to my four grandchildren who have also missed out on the opportunity to know him.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

17. I do not know what treatment [B] had for HCV. I am [B]'s next of kin and was the sole administrator of his estate. I found a lot of medication/treatment and needles in the cupboards in [B]'s flat after his death. His neighbour and I filled a carrier bag with medication and needles alone.

18. I am not aware of [B] being offered psychological support. He had the weekly support of a Macmillan Nurse who would visit and talk to him towards the end of his life.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

19. [B] received financial support from the Skipton Fund. I do not believe that he had any issues in accessing that support. When [B] died I

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applied for and later received the Stage 2 ex gratia payment from the Skipton Fund.

Anonymity

20. I wish to remain anonymous.

21. I do not want 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

Dated

15/6/2020