

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No.: WITN3473001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 21st January 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th November 2018.

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

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B**. My date of birth is **GRO-B**, 1960 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am a **GRO-B** **GRO-B**. I intend to speak about my father **GRO-B: F** and his infection of hepatitis C that led him to developing cancer of the liver which resulted in his death on **GRO-B**, 2018. In particular I will talk about his illness, how the illness affected him, treatment received and the impact it had on him and my family.

2. I **GRO-B**. I have **GRO-B** **GRO-B**. My parents met when they were teenagers but separated and divorced **GRO-B** **GRO-B**.

GRO-B

. I did see my father about once a year when he would come to
GRO-C to spend time with my sister and I. I didn't have a particularly
close relationship with him as I was growing up.

3. My father remarried

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Section 2. How Affected

4. My father was a haemophiliac. I would say his condition was mild as he led a relatively normal life.
5. I do remember he often talked about Professor Ludlam he would see at a Haemophilia Centre at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
6. My father was infected with hepatitis C as a result of being given contaminated blood or blood products.
7. I do not know if my father was given any information or advice beforehand about the risks of being exposed to infection. My father was a very private person when it came to his haemophilia, he didn't like talking about it.
8. I do not know when or who told my father he had hepatitis C. I remember Dad rang me one day and told me about his diagnosis of hepatitis C. I didn't know what hepatitis C was. He did not make out that it was a serious condition. I do remember he said he had got hepatitis C when he had been given a bad batch of blood. He said no more than that. I did not know what hepatitis C was at that time.

Section 3. Other infections

9. I do not know if Dad was exposed to other infections from the blood products he received.

Section 4. Consent

10. I do not know whether my father was treated or tested without his knowledge, consent or for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

11. The impact of contracting hepatitis C for my father ultimately cost him his life. I remember seeing my father in 2016. My mother and I met him and he got out of a taxi to meet us; he was a shadow of his former self. I remember feeling shocked at his physical appearance. He could only walk with the aid of two walking sticks. He was very thin and pale. My father was a stoic, proud man so I do not know of his mental state.

12. When my father was told in 2017 that he had terminal cancer of the liver as a result of him contracting hepatitis C he gave up on life. He attempted to take his own life with an overdose of prescribed medication on two occasions. He was eventually detained in a psychiatric hospital for a time.

13. I do not know if my father was offered or given any treatment for his hepatitis C. He did not discuss his condition with me at all.

14. I do not know if there were any treatments available for my father's hepatitis C infection that he was not offered.

15. I do not know if my father's infected status impacted upon his treatment for any other medical conditions or dental care.

16. My father loved music and was a GRO-B
GRO-B
GRO-B. My father was a tall, good-looking, gregarious man. Music was his passion. When he was told he had hepatitis C he became a different person. He slowly became reclusive and eventually stop playing music altogether. My father became very withdrawn and our relationship

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floundered. I would send him parcels and cards but he never responded to me.

17. My father was a GRO-B
GRO-B. When he was in his 50s he was sacked from his job. He was very angry and bitter about this for a long time. I seem to remember he was sacked due to his haemophilia and hepatitis C status. I can only assume his employers had found out about his infection and he was sacked.
18. My father married for the third time. He had only been married for three years when he discovered he had hepatitis C. Without realising that he was ill Dad was induced to make some poor financial decisions by his wife. GRO-B
GRO-B without realising that he had Hepatitis. Due to not being well, or being able to think straight, GRO-B and his money and this is when his wife kicked him out. Fortunately from there he moved into a good Council flat.
19. Contracting hepatitis C cost my father his job, his health, his marriage and ultimately his life.
20. I cannot remember exactly when but I remember there was a lot of coverage in the media about people getting hepatitis C and AIDS from blood transfusions. There was a lot of stigma attached to the infections. It was associated with drug users and homosexuality. I do not know if my father suffered because of this stigma. My father tried to lead as normal a life as possible. He never talked about his haemophilia or hepatitis C status.
- 21 GRO-B were very close to my father and were both left devastated when he died. We are all still in shock that his death was caused by being given contaminated blood.

Section 6. Treatment care support

22. My father did not say to me if he received or was offered any psychological

support or counselling. As I said earlier he was a stoic, proud man.

Section 7. Financial assistance

23. I do not know of any trusts or funds that have or do provide financial assistance to people who have been contaminated with infected blood. I seem to remember GRO-B telling me that after my father had been told he had cancer of the liver he did receive financial assistance. I believe he was getting £2000 a month. I do not know any other details than that.

Section 8. Other issues

24. I wish to remain anonymous in this inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated Jan 22, 2021