

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**
Statement No: WITN3766001
Exhibits: WITN3766002
Dated: 9th October 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I, **GRO-B** provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 17th September 2019. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

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

1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B** My date of birth is **GRO-B** and my address is known to the Inquiry.

2. How Affected

1. I make this statement in relation to my late father, **GRO-B:F** born on **GRO-B** My father was a haemophiliac.
2. My father was a mild haemophiliac, I remember him having bleeds, but these weren't severe. However, his haemophilia did prevent him from being 'hands on' and active, as physical activity would cause him to bleed.

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3. I recall my father having Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) tests. My father had the ENT tests as he was experiencing ear bleeds. The ENT tests confirmed that my father was a mild haemophiliac. I cannot recall what year this was.
4. My father received treatment at [GRO-B] Haemophilia Centre. I recall him going there a few times a year. My mother told me that my father was treated by [GRO-B] but I don't remember this as I was very young at the time.
5. I was aware of what factor VIII treatment was when I was younger as my father had mentioned it, but it was very rare that my father would need this.
6. I recall the first occasion my father received factor VIII. This was in the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] He received the clotting factor from [GRO-B] My father did not question this and rarely complained about anything. Neither myself nor my mother were present when my father received the factor VIII treatment from [GRO-B]
7. My father was also treated by [GRO-B] I recall meeting [GRO-B] at the [GRO-B] when I accompanied my father for an appointment at the Haemophilia Centre. I was around [GRO-B] at the time.
8. I would like to add that I have no criticism of [GRO-B] He was fantastic with my father and became a friend of the family.
9. I wouldn't say my father's reading or writing was what it should have been. Intellectually, he was not very bright. I viewed my fathers' medical notes and it was clear from them that [GRO-B] had made derogatory remarks about my father. Exhibited before me at **Exhibit WITN3766002** is a letter dated [GRO-B] from [GRO-B] to my father's GP, [GRO-B] At the beginning of the letter [GRO-B] uses quite a dismissive tone as he states *"as usual he has several complaints"*.

10. My father should have had things explained to him properly in terms of the treatment he was receiving and the associated risks etc. From what my mother has told me, it was not explained to her either.
11. In the early [GRO-B] my father had an appointment with [GRO-B] at the [GRO-B]. At the appointment my father was told he had tested positive for hepatitis C. At the time we were all in shock.
12. Not long after my father received his diagnosis, all of the family were tested. Luckily, none of us had contracted the virus. At the time of his diagnosis I was a teenager. I didn't understand what hepatitis C was or what it meant to have hepatitis C. I recall that we all became extra cautious in the house around sharing towels and cups.
13. My father began treatment for his hepatitis C when I was [GRO-B]. He received this treatment at [GRO-B] in [GRO-B]. To begin with, my father was given Interferon treatment.
14. It was around the [GRO-B] period that my father began to experience blackouts. I was in my first year of A-levels when my father was put on the liver transplant list in [GRO-B]. My father had to wear a bleeper. Only a month later, in [GRO-B] my father was told they had found a liver match at [GRO-B]. [GRO-B] On [GRO-B] my father was given a liver transplant at [GRO-B].
15. As I mention above, I was studying for my A-levels when my father's health deteriorated. I had passed my GCSE's and worked through these, however, once I started my A-levels, my father's health declined and as a result I did not perform well.

3. **Other infections**

1. My father had developed jaundice in [GRO-B] when he began the Interferon treatment. As a result of the hepatitis C, he experienced sickness, nausea and

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had frequent headaches and pains in his side. He would often need to sleep during the day. He was totally drained and didn't have any life in him.

2. My father developed cirrhosis of the liver in [GRO-B] prior to his liver transplant. He later contracted liver cirrhosis for a second time after his transplant. I will discuss the impact of this later in the statement.
3. As a result of the hepatitis C, my father became depressed which was awful as he was a jovial character before he began to experience the effects of the hepatitis C.
4. My father found it incredibly frustrating that he didn't understand things. My mother was his voice. He wasn't a whinger or a complainer and if he thought someone was trying to help him and doing the right thing then he would just listen.

4. Consent

1. I was a child when my mother and father went to [GRO-B] to get my father's hepatitis C test results. Therefore, I don't really have an opinion on how the results were relayed to my father as I wasn't there at the time.
2. [GRO-B] said the hepatitis C had laid dormant for 15 years. This statement alone makes me believe that my father must have been tested and known to have the virus prior to being told about it
3. It doesn't really make sense that the hepatitis C lay dormant for 15 years. My father was a haemophiliac and had regular check-ups, therefore he would have been having his bloods taken regularly.
4. As my father didn't show any symptoms for 15 years, I believe he wasn't a concern to medical professionals. I think medical professionals knew my father had hepatitis C but simply decided not to tell him.

5. Having attended some of the Inquiry hearings last year and listened to the evidence people gave, I am more inclined to say that my father was tested for the purposes of research.

5. **Impact**

1. As I have said earlier in my statement, the effects of the hepatitis C did not develop until 15 years after my father had been given the factor VIII. It was in the years after his diagnosis that he suffered more. Most of my father's suffering was a result of the different drugs he was given to treat the hepatitis C.
2. When I started my A-levels, my father began the Interferon treatment and was injecting. He was depressed, tired and had no energy as a result of the treatment.
3. Nearly a year later when I began my first year of A-levels in GRO-B my father was told he had developed cirrhosis of the liver and that he would need a liver transplant. As I have stated earlier in my statement, my father received his liver transplant at GRO-B
4. When my father was placed on the transplant list, a week later they found a donor match. The phone went in the house and a case had already been packed for my father.
5. My father came home from GRO-B around Christmas time in GRO-B. By GRO-B he was given a bleeper and was told that he had six months to live. He started on anti-rejection drugs and these didn't work. The side effects of these were awful and he aged a lot.
6. After the transplant we thought he would have a new lease of life, however, he became more serious about things. My father blamed himself for my A-level results. I had 3 A's, 3B's and 3C's at GCSE. There was a big difference between what I achieved at A-level and GCSE.

7. After the transplant, I began my studies at university. My father wanted me to go to university and his health was stable at that time. I went to **GRO-B** **GRO-B** and was happy with my choice as my father seemed a lot better at that time.
8. I came home from university every other weekend to see my parents. However, I knew my father wasn't well and I dropped out of university at the end of **GRO-B** when I was in my second year. My father always wanted me to go to university, however I found it very difficult being away from him when he was so unwell. I later joined the **GRO-B** in **GRO-B**
9. From a young age my father was never 'hands on' like how my husband is with our children. Due to his haemophilia, my father didn't drive and I don't remember doing a lot of things with him as he never had the energy.
10. My father was an excellent father in other ways. He was always encouraging and instilled a strong work ethic in me. He made sure we did our homework. He always said you had to work hard for the things you have.
11. He was gentle and kind. He would always see the funnier side of things and we always had a good giggle.
12. I passed out from the **GRO-B** in **GRO-B** and my father attended my **GRO-B**. The following day he was really fatigued and tired. In **GRO-B** my brother got married and my father attended the wedding, however he wasn't well afterwards.
13. It was in **GRO-B** when my father's health began to deteriorate further. By **GRO-B** my father's health had significantly worsened. My mother and I were called in by my father's consultant, **GRO-B** who told us that my father would need a liver, kidney and heart transplant. He said there was nothing more they could do for my father. I was shocked when my father was dying and when I went to see him at the hospital. If you had told me **GRO-B**

GRO-B before he died that he was dying, I wouldn't have believed you. Between the years **GRO-B** my father's condition had been steady, so this came as a shock.

14. My mother and I brought him home from the hospital to pass away. My mother and I would take it in turns looking after my father in the night. The last couple of nights before he died were horrendous.

15. My father started filling up with water. It sounded as though he was choking and couldn't breathe during those last days. From when he was in the hospital to when he came home, he was a different person. He had a self-administering drip which he used for a week.

16. The last 4 days before he died he became very upset and frightened. He rarely said "I love you" until those days before he died. In the last few days of his life my father turned mustard yellow as the cirrhosis was attacking his liver.

17. I can confirm that my father was not offered any counselling. My mother was offered bereavement counselling. However, the bereavement counsellor knew my father personally and the health board never bothered to send anyone else after that.

18. I was never offered any counselling.

6. Treatment/Care Support

1. My father did not face any obstacles accessing treatment. My father had a very good GP. She spoke to my father like he was a human being and did not use a demeaning tone with him.

7. Financial Assistance

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1. **GRO-B** told my father to fill in some forms and then he would receive some money from the Skipton Fund. I believe he did receive a pay out from the Skipton Fund.
2. My mother had to give up work that she loved in order to look after my father and she received carers allowance. My mother was 50 years old when she gave up work.
3. My parents weren't the type of people to seek financial assistance. They didn't like to ask. I am also the same.

8. Other Issues

1. If I hadn't attended the **GRO-B** hearings in August then I wouldn't have understood why a public Inquiry was being held. However, after listening to other people's stories they deserve to have answers. It should be acknowledged that this was a massive tragedy.
2. I would personally like to have answers. The thought of a professor using people as Guinea Pigs is terrible. I want answers.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed...

GRO-B

Dated... 09/10/2020