

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN5657001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: April 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

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I, GRO-B, will say as follows

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#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B. I was born on GRO-B and I live at GRO-B. I am a retired GP.
2. My wife, GRO-B nee GRO-B (born on GRO-B GRO-B), was infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) through contaminated blood transfused during her pregnancy in 1986 with my youngest son, GRO-B. She died on GRO-B (aged 41).
3. My son, GRO-B (born on GRO-B), was then also infected with HIV from birth through our mother's HIV infection. GRO-B has provided his own Witness Statement to the Inquiry GRO-B.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access my wife and son's medical records.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

5. **GRO-B** had antenatal care at Watford General Hospital (WGH) in Watford. She was an inpatient there for several weeks after haemorrhaging.
6. **GRO-B** was not given any information or advice regarding the risk of infection from blood transfusions. She was pressured into having the transfusion by one particular consultant, and eventually agreed to it under duress. I was against her having a blood transfusion. I considered a blood transfusion to be wholly unnecessary. **GRO-B** was left physically weakened by the haemorrhage and had become anaemic, but her life was not in danger and she did not need the transfusion. She needed to rebuild her iron reserves instead. The consultant in question (I cannot recall his name) turned up on the ward daily and would not let up about the transfusion. He didn't turn up when I was there, and I was very upset and angry to learn of it after I returned to the Middle East to complete my work contract out there.
7. **GRO-B**'s health started to deteriorate, and it was ultimately identified that she had been infected with HIV through a contaminated blood transfusion. We then learned that the HIV advanced to AIDS. **GRO-B** passed away at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, leaving five children to include **GRO-B** who was just 5 years old.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

8. I do not think that my wife and son were infected with anything other than HIV.

## **Section 4. Consent**

9. I do not know whether my wife and son were tested, treated or used for research purposes. **GRO-B** did not provide free and informed consent to the blood transfusion.

**Section 5. Impact**

10. GRO-B's death was catastrophic. It resulted in a profound downturn in my mental health. Retrospectively, I recognise that I had what was probably a nervous breakdown. I couldn't cope and was unable to properly parent my five children and be the father I wish I could have been. I became a workaholic and shut down to everything else in my life. I moved from job to job and worked very long hours. I did not know what else to do with myself.

11. I am 80 years old. I suffer with Parkinson's Disease and struggle with my speech. I can no longer recall all the specific details of that time, but I will never get over what happened to my wife and son and my wife's young and untimely death.

**Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

12. Nobody was offered any counselling or support.

**Section 7. Financial Assistance**

13. I do not recall any financial assistance being given.

**Anonymity**

14. I would like to apply for anonymity, and 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.....28/04/2021.....