

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1127001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: December 2018

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, DOB GRO-B and I live at GRO-B
GRO-B with GRO-B
2. My father, GRO-B DOB GRO-B died on GRO-B
after being infected with Hepatitis C and HIV through contaminated blood
products.
3. GRO-B
GRO-B
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my
late father's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with
limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at
the end of this statement.

Section 2. How infected

5. My father was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C [GRO-B]
[GRO-B]

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I have no information regarding the other infections that my father was or may have been exposed to.

Section 4. Consent

7. I do not have any knowledge as to whether my father consented to being tested for HIV or Hepatitis C.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

8. [GRO-B]
9. I only found out that my father had HIV when I was [GRO-B] By this stage I knew that my Dad was a haemophiliac [GRO-B] but I had no idea he suffered from such a serious disease.
10. I was told that my father had been ill and was given infected blood products to help him, but they had actually given him HIV. [GRO-B]
[GRO-B] I asked my father if he was going to die and he laughed and said 'hopefully not for a while yet'.
11. I was told that only our very close friends knew about this but not everybody did. In any event I probably knew enough about HIV not to tell everyone so I didn't talk about it.

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12. [GRO-B]
[GRO-B] Although they weren't targeted towards me (because no one knew about my Dad's illness) they were still upsetting to hear.

13. [GRO-B]
But I was aware that [GRO-B] when I was growing up and I now wonder what he would be like if he hadn't been infected with HIV.

14. [GRO-B] I spoke to him the night before he died and he said he loved me [GRO-B]

15. I always knew that my Dad didn't have as long to live because of his illness but I was still completely shocked when he died. I thought he would have longer. It happened so fast.

16. My Dad's disease is something I've never really talked about to anyone. I feel guilty that I don't want people knowing about it and [GRO-B]
[GRO-B] However, I'm scared of people finding out due to the stigma that still exists around HIV. [GRO-B]
[GRO-B]
[GRO-B] I took a day off work to give this witness statement and didn't tell anyone why I was having the time off.

17. I sometimes question whether I am letting my Dad down by not telling anyone, but ultimately I know he would just want me to be happy.

18. I worry that when I find someone I want to settle down with, [GRO-B]
[GRO-B]
[GRO-B] but also that my father died with HIV; I therefore have a real fear of rejection.

19. Coping with my Dad's death [GRO-B]
[GRO-B]

GRO-B

GRO-B

20. It is still so difficult knowing that my Dad won't be there when I get married or for all of the other key moments in my life.

21. When I was younger I thought that what happened to Dad was all an accident and that it was an awful mistake. Now that I am at the age where I understand what happened to him I am extremely angry. When I saw Jason Evans on the TV talking about it when the Public Inquiry was starting, I had a mini-break down. I've had to learn how to deal with it all over again and the fact that my Dad didn't die in a tragic accident, he was murdered.

22. I am now very distrusting of medical professionals. If I see a doctor and am prescribed something I worry about what they are giving me. When I had surgery recently I explicitly told them that I only wanted them to give me Factor if I was dying. Luckily they were able to cover the surgery with tranexamic acid.

23. I am fortunate that I have such supportive family to help me through this, although I am conscious of the effect that this has all had on

GRO-B

GRO-B

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

24. GRO-B after my Dad's death but I never felt comfortable enough to talk about his HIV.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

25. I approached the MacFarlane Trust to ask for financial help

GRO-B

GRO-B

GRO-B

GRO-B

Anonymity, redaction, disclosure

26. I want to be anonymous and would like the identifying features of my family redacted from my witness statement.

27. 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.....

Dated

assistance which wouldn't have got me anywhere in terms of setting up the business so Mum had to cash in part of her pension to make it possible.

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Signature

GRO-B

Dated

29.1.19.