Witness Name: GRO-B
Statement No: WITN1164001
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 and I was born on GRO-B. I live at GRO-B GRO-B with my wife and GRO-B. I work as a GRO-B.

2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my 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

3. My GRO-B had Haemophilia. GRO-B. My GRO-B GRO-B I was diagnosed with moderate Haemophilia B (also known as Christmas disease), with 4% clotting factor when I was born.

4. In or about the mid 1980s, I believe I was given Factor IX (FIX) blood products. I only required FIX when I had a bleed and/or a tooth extractions. It was only administered at GRO-B.

5. I cannot recall the extract dates as to when I received FIX.

6. I was under the care of GRO-B GRO-B.

7. I believe I was infected with Hepatitis C (Hep C) by FIX blood products that I had and/or by the blood transfusions that I had when I was a child.

8. My parents and I were not provided with any information regarding the risks that were associated with the blood products, and as far as we were aware the products were safe to use.

9. In or about 1991, I received a telephone call asking me to attend the GRO-B. They very bluntly informed me that I had been infected with Hep C and I was not told how I was infected. I did not know what it was or what this meant for me, but I was told that there was treatment available. However, I was told that there was only a 50/50 chance that the treatment would work. They told me that if it did not work I could get cirrhosis and I could die. I was shocked when I was told and, being only 20/21 years old, I was scared to death.

10. I do not believe that I was provided with adequate information to understand and manage the infection. I believe that the information should have been provided to me as soon as they knew that I was infected. This was something I was living with and did not know anything about.

11. I was not given any information about the risk of infecting others and I do not recall this being provided at a later date. I did not do any further research at the time, because I was young and I was in a state of shock and followed the doctor's advice.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I am not aware of any other infections that I may have contracted as a result of receiving infected blood products.

13. I vaguely recall being told at a doctor's appointment that there was a possibility that I could be infected with vCJD, but I do not think they knew very much about it themselves. I received no further information about it and I did not follow it up.

Section 4. Consent

14. I believe that I had been treated and tested without my knowledge and consent, and without being provided with adequate information.

15. I had routine blood tests for my Haemophilia, but I was not told that I was being tested for any of the infections (including Hep C and HIV). When I found out that I had Hep C, this was the first time that I knew that I was tested for Hep C.

Section 5. Impact

16. When I was informed of my infection I was very scared about my future because I was told that there was only a 50% chance of the treatment working.

17. Prior to the treatment, I do not recall I had any physical effects from Hep C.

18. In or about 1991, just after I was told that I had Hep C, I was treated with Interferon and Ribavirin, which was provided by the hospital. The treatment was a 12 month course, which I completed. I had to administer injections into my stomach and take tablets everyday. I suffered from nausea and weight loss. I also had hair loss as a result of the treatment. I felt very extremely fatigued and drained. The treatment was horrible.

19. I became very depressed during the treatment and I did not receive any medication for it. I was mentally scared and did not know what was going to happen to me. I was unsure whether I would live or die and I was concerned about the stigma that was attached to the infection. I felt that I could not tell my friends what I had. They knew I was unwell, but I did not want to tell anyone other than close family members. I kept it to myself. I did not feel clean. It had a massive impact on my life and I was only 20/21 at the time.

20. I also suffered with problems with my joints during the treatment, but I cannot say whether this is connected to the infection or the Haemophilia.

21. After I completed the treatment I was tested. The day I went for my results was a very scary day but I was told that I had cleared Hep C.

22. I was not aware of any other treatments that were available at the time.

23. My infection also had a huge impact on my private, family and social life. I was unable to go out with my friends who were out drinking, because I could not drink alcohol during the treatment. I stayed indoors and became a bit of a recluse; it was a very lonely time for me.

24. Being infected had a huge impact on my ability to have a relationship. I kept myself to myself and did not think I could have a relationship. I did not want to explain my infection to anyone as I was scared of their reaction.

25. As previously stated, I kept my infection very private, other than telling my close family like my mother, father and siblings. My friends knew I was poorly, but I did not want people to know so did not tell them what I had. I was worried about their reaction if I told them. I know now that they would have supported me during that time, but I could not face telling them then.

26. I do not believe the infection affected my medical care or dental care for any other conditions.

27. Being infected impacted my work. It turned my life upside down. I recall there were times when I just could not face going into work and had to take time off, due to my depression and the way I was feeling during the treatment. This impacted both my work itself and my finances, as I only received sick pay for the days that I had off.

28 GRO-B GRO-B. I know my family were very worried for both of us during this time.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

29. I do not believe I received any care or support from the hospital. I was just told I had Hep C and received treatment for it. I just had to get on with it.

30. I had not been offered any counselling or psychological support after being diagnosed with Hep C. At that time I was only a young lad who was scared to death about my future, so such support would have undoubtedly helped me had I been offered it.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

31. On the 05/08/2004 I received a Stage 1 payment from the Skipton Fund in the sum of £20,000. I received information about the payment through the post, stating that I was entitled to compensation. I do not recall filling in any forms.

32. Approximately 3 years ago, I read online that I could receive monthly payments from the Skipton Fund. I therefore applied online and since then I received £300 a month. I now receive the payment from EIBSS.

33. I do not recall encountering any obstacles when applying online and found the process to be straightforward.

34. I do not recall any preconditions imposed when applying for the above payments.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

35. I confirm that I do wish to apply for anonymity.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed... GRO-B ....

Dated 19/12/18.