

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1476001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: March 2019

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 I was born on GRO-B and live at GRO-B
GRO-B
2. I am currently working with GRO-B as a GRO-B I
am single.
3. I have GRO-B and I am the GRO-B child.
4. I make this witness statement on behalf of my late father, GRO-B: F
My father was born on GRO-B and died at the age of GRO-B on GRO-B
GRO-B as a result of Non A Non B (NANB) Hepatitis (now known as
Hepatitis C) and AIDS.
5. My mother, GRO-B has also produced a witness statement,
GRO-B
6. 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

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limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Affected

7. I believe my father was diagnosed with mild/moderate Haemophilia A in his 20s. His clotting factor was approximately 17%.
8. In [GRO-B] my father was involved in a [GRO-B] resulting in significant injuries, after which he was given Factor VIII (FVIII). Prior to this accident, he was mainly given Cryoprecipitate for any associated treatment.
9. I was only [GRO-B] years old when my father was involved in this [GRO-B] I did not witness the accident myself but my [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] did. As a result of the accident my father broke his neck [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] of his ribs were broken. He also suffered trauma to his internal organs including the spleen, lungs and was comatose for about one month. I also recall my father having to rely on the use of a neck support collar for quite some time (more than a year) after coming home from hospital.
10. I believe my father was diagnosed with NANB following the accident and he was diagnosed with HIV in or about [GRO-B]
11. I do not know how my father found out that he was infected with NANB and HIV.
12. I was not provided with much information about my father's NANB and HIV. I do not believe my father was provided with suitable or sufficient information at the time. However, at some point I believe he was informed about the risks associated with passing his infection onto others. I know this because he was very conscious about bleeding around us and passing the infections onto my mother through sexual contact.
13. For more detailed information about how my father found out about his infections and how he was infected, please refer to my mother's witness statement.

Section 3. Other Infections

14. As a result of my father's NANB and HIV, I believe he also suffered from associated conditions such as GRO-B This also adversely and significantly impacted on his digestive system including loss of taste, nausea and sensitivity to cooking odours, loss of appetite, passing a dark brown urine and passing a jelly like mucus from the back passage when breaking wind.

15. My mother's witness statement details this section further.

Section 4. Consent

16. My father always felt that he was being used as a guinea pig and a PUP (previously untreated patient). He was almost certainly treated without his knowledge or consent and without being given adequate and full information. Neither was my mother provided with any information, such that she could make an informed choice as to the nature of the treatment my father was going to, and ultimately received.

17. My mother's witness statement details this section further.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

18. My father suffered mental health effects as a result of developing HIV from contaminated FVIII products. He became very angry especially towards my mother, and suffered periods of anxiety and depression which presented itself as frustration, verbal aggression and mood swings. He was never physically violent to my mother. There was definitely a change in his behaviour and his demeanour completely changed. He was not the same person as he was when I was younger. He became increasingly verbally aggressive towards my mother and brother and started to ignore my mother and distance himself so she felt as if she did not exist. He was never like this prior to his diagnosis.

19. My father also suffered physical effects as a result of being infected with HIV. He had mouth ulcers and sore throats which I believe were as a result of the

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infections. He was physically fit before he was infected. He used to be very strong and there was no way he had HIV prior to his accident. The accident resulted in him suffering a broken **GRO-B** and internal organ trauma but it was the contaminated FVIII treatment which infected him.

20. When my father died, he weighed about 5.5 to 6 stones. The last time I saw him properly was about 8 months before his death as I was at university. My mother told me I really needed to go to see him. When I went to see, I didn't recognise him, he had lost a lot of weight and looked malnourished, skeletal, pale and drawn in the face with deep set eyes and his clothes didn't fit him. He rapidly deteriorated in his last 2 months of life and he was constantly in and out of hospital. My mother and uncle told me he had passed away when they came to my house that I shared with university friends.
21. My father received AZT (a Retroviral drug) treatment for the HIV. I am not sure whether he faced any difficulties in accessing the treatment.
22. My father was on a lot of medication at the time so I am not too sure what particular effects he had as a result of the AZT.
23. My father's infected status impacted significantly on his private, family and social life. My father was quite a private man and he took it upon himself to protect my mother. He became increasingly distant and shut out my mother and brother throughout his illness and more so when diagnosed with HIV. My father was very unhappy at the time. He suffered from depression and became verbally aggressive or ignored my mother and brother. I know what both my parents and siblings went through during the time and knew my father was struggling to come to terms with the fact he knew he was dying. My mother later suffered with significant emotional anxiety and had a breakdown years after his death. My father experienced bouts of depression which significantly affected their social life.
24. There was a huge impact on my family. Our family unit was not the same following the accident and more so once my father was diagnosed with the infections. I had my own circle of friends as I was a bit older. At this time, I

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was doing my A-levels and then started university, so I was able to distance myself somewhat from all that was going on. My **GRO-B** and **GRO-B** lived at home so were more heavily impacted than me at the time. I realise now that my mother wanted me to focus on university so she did not tell me anything or get me involved. It's only really now, having read my father's medical notes and being aware of the extent of the scandal through the media/internet coverage of the inquiry that I think I'm only truly starting to recognise how much I've suppressed my emotions, personality, understand my personality and the fact that I've never let myself grieve my father's death.

25. My father's infected status and death has also impacted me physically, mentally and emotionally and affected my private, family and social life. I missed out on doing physical things with my father and I freely acknowledge I lost myself to alcohol whilst at university to help me cope or even momentarily forget what was happening at home. Following my father's death, my personality changed completely and friendships were greatly strained at university because of this. The impact is still there to this day and I find myself becoming angry and breaking into tears, when I think of my dad or watch, read, hear of others who have gone through similar circumstances. Sometimes I can get upset without any apparent or obvious reason. I isolated myself at that time and I still feel isolated now. When people make uneducated and pathetic comments about HIV and AIDS, although I want to tell them exactly how ignorant they are, I have to bite my tongue and although very angry, I usually make an excuse or just walk away.
26. I'll never forget when some university friends visited me at home when I had come home ill for a brief period and my father's medication (AZT, Fungilin) was seen by one of them. I lived in fear that they would ask me about the medication and not want to remain friends with me if they found out that my father had HIV.
27. I have had several long term intimate relationships with girlfriends but have found it difficult to maintain them. I have never told any of them or anyone about my father. I want to be in an open, honest and loving relationship but

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when it gets to a point where I feel I can trust, I close down, push them away, end the relationship or act in a way so they will end it. My last relationship ended 10 years ago and I don't see myself ever being able to trust anyone enough to tell them about my dad and I can't live a lie. Whenever people ask me about my father's illness or death, I will always change the subject or have to walk away. I find it very hard to trust people, including, and especially doctors and medical staff regarding my own health and medical treatment.

28. I have learnt to try and control my anger and frustration by doing physical exercise. Sometimes when my mother speaks to me about my father, I have to walk away in order to stop the conversation, as I can still get very upset and don't want her to see me like this. Even to this day, I find it hard to speak about my father and I am clearly still not dealing with this after nearly 30 years. Writing this is bringing back a lot of suppressed emotions.

29. There was, and despite opinions still is, a stigma attached to HIV and AIDS when I was growing up. If we had openly told people that my father had HIV, I believe we would have been targeted and victimised in some way. Although there is a better understanding about the infection now and better treatments available, back then I know there was not and generally to this day there are a monolith who will always remain bigoted and ignorant. As a result, we have kept this matter private. My mother never told anyone formally but I think some of her closest friends worked it out. My GRO-B has not even told his GRO-B. My GRO-B told her husband and more recently a close friend. Despite coming close with a long term ex-partner, I have never told anyone outside the immediate family and some of our family still don't know.

30. My mother has and is taking medication to manage anxiety to this day and this is undoubtedly as a result of what happened to my father. My aunty has helped my mother through this and took her to a psychiatrist. My mother has not cried for years and has become a mistrusting, challenging, obstinate, stubborn and bloody minded person. Her demeanour has changed and her health has clearly been affected as a result and it has taken many years with the support of family, medication and professional consultation to help her

regain some self confidence and a level of normality in her life. My mother is not the same person she was when I grew up and it really hurts to see her like this, having had the opportunity for a life with my father taken away from herself and her children.

31. I have a massive emotional scar as a result of what happened to my father. I wanted to protect my GRO-B from everything that was going on but unfortunately she lost her GRO-B years ago as well. Losing her father and her GRO-B is still difficult for her especially with a GRO-B to bring up on her own.
32. I find it difficult to get involved in intimate relationships. I feared in the early days that I may have contracted HIV through my lack of understanding and fears of living at home and being around my father and I was scared I would catch AIDS and could accidentally pass it on to my friends and partners. I have never had children and don't think I would be able to tell them about what I have been through in life. Stigma and ignorance still exists today and I feel obligated to take this secret to my grave so as to protect future family generations.
33. My mother worked hard to get me through university. I owe her everything and resent the fact that my father was taken away from us and was not able to not see me graduate or share in our family life.
34. My father suffered work-related effects as a result of the infections, as he was no longer able to go to work. As a result, we struggled hard financially as a family.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

35. I do not know whether my father received any counselling or psychological support.
36. I was offered financial support on the basis that I would see a psychiatrist, which I was prepared to do. I cannot remember who offered this. However, I

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felt that this was only offered under a pre-conditional pretense and I did not receive any counseling or financial support at this time as this was retracted.

37. I therefore did not receive any psychological support or counselling which I believe I could and should have received and which may have allowed me an opportunity to speak out about what happened.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

38. I know my mother received financial assistance after my father's death and to my knowledge my father did not receive anything before and up to his death in April 1989. I feel the money given out is blood money. Financial compensation is not going to bring my father back or compensate for my father's death. If justice is to be served then the innocent victims and families infected and affected by this medical atrocity must be compensated with a minimum of the truth.

39. The only money I received was to support a university field trip for my degree course for which my mother applied on my behalf, to the Macfarlane Trust.

This was provided in GRO-B

GRO-B My GRO-B was not entitled to any financial support as he was working at the time and my GRO-B was unable to access any financial support provided for GRO-B years, until she was GRO-B and only then if she applied to access it.

40. For more detailed information about the financial assistance that my mother received, please refer to my mother's witness statement.

Section 8. Other Issues

41. I firmly believe that the FVIII products used in his treatment were from sourced batches which were known to potentially or highly likely to be contaminated and were given to him with little respect for his long term health or wellbeing and having a complete disregard towards ethical or medical due diligence and standards of care. These decisions and actions led to my father's physical and emotional suffering and ultimately his premature death.

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42. I want to know why my father was given FVIII instead of Cryoprecipitate because he had mild to moderate Haemophilia. I believe that he was knowingly given contaminated FVIII and this action ultimately led to the infections and death.

43. I am angry with the way everything has been handled by the authorities and I believe someone has to answer to it.

44. What happened to my father pushed me to pursue my career in helping people. It is not just my family who were impacted by this scandal, but so many people out there and I want answers and justice for all of them.

45. The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

46. I wish to remain anonymous.

47. 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:

26/03/19