

Witness Name: Barry Webb  
Statement No: WITN6426001  
Exhibits: WITN6426002-3  
Dated: April 2022

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF BARRY WEBB

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I, BARRY WEBB, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My full name is Barry John Webb. I was born on **GRO-C** 1947 and I live at **GRO-C** Worcestershire **GRO-C**
2. **GRO-C** has Haemophilia A. **GRO-C** has Haemophilia B. We are unique as no-one appears to have heard of the incidence of both Haemophilia A and Haemophilia B in the same family.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to **GRO-C** **GRO-C** full medical records.

4. My late father-in-law, William John Philip Dewdney, was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through infected Factor VIII (FVIII) treatment sourced from the USA. He died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009, aged 84, from liver cancer.
5. My wife, Janet Webb, my sister-in-law, Sabrina Hayward, and my brother-in-law, Guy Dewdney have provided Witness Statements to the Inquiry (Witness numbers WITN1596001, WITN1280001 and WITN1187001 respectively).

## **Section 2. How Affected**

6. **GRO-C** has severe Haemophilia A (2% clotting factor) and **GRO-C** has severe Haemophilia B (0% clotting factor). They were treated at the Birmingham Children's Hospital (QEH) under Dr **GRO-D**.
7. In 1995 Janet and I had a meeting with Dr **GRO-D** to discuss our treatment concerns. Janet and I wanted to persuade the hospital to use recombinant concentrate which does not come from human plasma. Dr **GRO-D** was resistant to the idea. The outbreak of mad cow disease and its human equivalent variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) had been in the news. In order to dissuade us from insisting upon the use of recombinant, **GRO-D** used expressions like 'they use foetal calf serum for that'. My instinct told me that he was lying but I sat back and observed Dr **GRO-D** body language, his facial expressions and the like. His reaction to Janet when she then said that she wouldn't want **GRO-C** to be put at risk of that showed that he had accomplished what he had set out to do.
8. After the meeting I set about some fact-finding research. Through my friends and business contacts I started talking to experts across the world to include Professor Bernard Grosber at Dusseldorf University Hospital. Professor Grosber (an expert in the treatment of children with haemophilia) virtually

contradicted everything Dr [GRO-D] had told us. There was only one recombinant product, Kogenate by Bayer that contained anything of transgenic animal origin. Dr Groob was very reassuring and actually laughed when I relayed to him Dr [GRO-D] comments. Kogenate recombinant was not derived from cows in a field but from the cells of laboratory animals and they could follow the genetics of each animal. Janet was shocked to learn that Dr [GRO-D] had lied. I commented to her after the meeting with Dr [GRO-D] that I was certain he had lied and I would prove it. Her response to me had been 'doctors don't lie'.

9. I was particularly upset after I had talked to a lady Professor of Haematology at the Yale Medical School. I explained to her that [GRO-C] was on 8Y to which she said, 'what's that?' She asked me to get a vial and read off the maker in response to which she said, 'Oh my God, do they not realise the risks they are putting [GRO-C] through?' She went on to say that she felt 'really sorry' for me. I subsequently checked and found that [GRO-C] was one of 105 [GRO-C] at the hospital being treated with the product 8Y. What struck me most about the Yale Professor was the panic in her voice when she realised what our Haemophilia Centre were using to treat [GRO-C]. I feel like crying every time I think of it.
10. I visited BPL in Elstree for a tour in 1996 or 1997. The team (of four) I met with were taciturn and reticent with the information they provided and what it was they wanted me to see. I asked them 'If you had [GRO-C] with haemophilia and knowing what you know about everything, would you want them to have BPL or recombinant?' After licking his lips and watching his eyes go up and down, the team leader responded by saying 'that is not an easy question'. I said 'no, it's a simple question' but only one person (a lady sales director) replied. The senior scientist said 'I don't think you understand the implications of the question you ask. I can't answer that'.
11. I refer to Exhibit WITN6426002 being a note of my family's circumstances and my investigations into the History and Safety of Plasma based Factor.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

12. We received a letter sometime in the mid-2000s informing us that [GRO-C] had been exposed to the risk of vCJD.

### **Section 4. Consent**

13. [GRO-C] were treated and tested without our specific consent and without us being given adequate and correct information.

### **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

14. I refer to Janet's Statement. Because of the contaminated blood scandal [GRO-C] [GRO-C] were assumed to be HIV positive. In the mid-2000s our family was targeted, threatened and abused by our neighbours. [GRO-C] school were wrongly informed (by letter) that they had tested HIV positive. It was a very frightening and distressing period of our lives. I refer to Exhibit WITN6426003 being copy letters/notes sent.

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

15. I refer to Janet's Statement.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

16. I refer to Janet's Statement.

**Anonymity**

17. I do not seek anonymity and I understand that this Statement will be disclosed for publication to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed...

GRO-C

Date...

12/05/2022