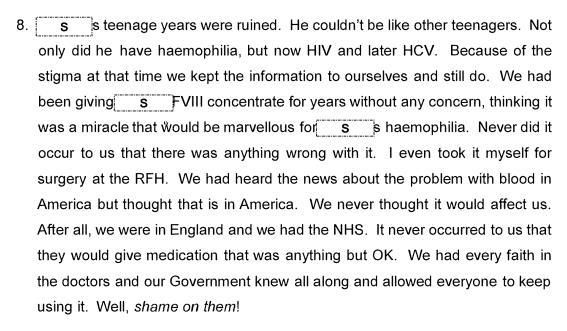
Witness Name: GRO-B
Statement No: WITN6891001

	Exhibits: 0			
	Dated: December 2021			
	INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY			
	FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B			
1 ··				
I, GRO-B will say as follows:-				
Section 1. Introduction				
1. My full	name is GRO-B I was born or GRO-B 1949 and			
l live at	name is GRO-B I was born or GRO-B 1949 and GRO-B			
2. My son, GRO-B: S (born on GRO-B 1975), is co-infected with				
	man Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) contaminated blood products.			
unoagi	Toomammated blood products.			
3. s has provided his own Witness Statement to the Inquiry (Witness				
Numbe	er WITN2767001) and this Statement should be read in conjunction with			
his Statement. This Witness Statement has been prepared without the benefit				
of acce	ess to my son's full medical records.			

# Section 2. How Affected

4.	s has severe Haemophilia A. At the age of 10 months we found out and
	we were surprised as we weren't aware of any other family members to have
	it, and as it runs in families.
5.	We (my husband and I) were stationed in Germany at the time because my
	husband was in the Army. We were being looked after at British Forces
	Hospital GRO-B s was being given Cryoprecipitate. The Army
	requested we return to the UK to sort out our family 'problems'. When we
	returned to the UK in 1977, we were then being looked after by the Royal Free
	Hospital (RFH) in London. The RFH did many tests on sand myself and
	I then found out that I also had low Factor VIII levels. At this point s
	started to be treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate. s at this point
	was nearly two years old.
6.	When s was nearly four years old, I had to have surgery and I was given
	Factor VIII. At no time were we given any information about FVIII concentrate
	or was there any suspicion that there was anything wrong with the product.
7.	In 1981 we returned to Germany for a short while and then back to the UK to
r	GRO-B in Dorset. Although we were being looked after at Boscombe
Ĺ	Haemophilia Department we were still under the overall care of the RFH. In
	1983, the RFH asked all three of us to come up to London for blood tests which
	we did. We were told there that the blood tests were to find out if any of us had
	HIV. What a shock that was. We had to return home and await the results. My
	husband and I received our letters and we were negative, but there was no
	letter about s We contacted the RFH and was told the news over the
	phone that s was positive, and we needed to return for a consultation
	about the situation. We were absolutely devasted by the news. At the
	consultation we were told that if s lived to be 15 years old, we would be
	lucky. Our first thought was how at such a young age s was going to
	take the news. Secondly, we could not believe the NHS had given our son a

product that was likely to kill him.	It was like living with a time bomb, waiting to
go off.	



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

9. suffered with opportunistic infections and health conditions attributable to the viruses. s contracted shingles and had infected fingers. Knowing that s was unlikely to make it past his mid-teens was horrific. Every time he was unwell with even so much as a cold or flu, I was filled with dread. I thought 'Oh my God. Is this the start of it all?'

#### Section 4. Consent

10.I do not think that s gave specific consent to being tested for hepatitis and he was in his late teens/early twenties when he became aware that he was HCV positive. We were broken. I thought 'How much more can his body take and what impact would it have on his future life (if he had one)?'

11.I am unable to comment as to whether s was used for the purposes of research. If the clinicians even suspected or had any concerns whatsoever as to the safety of the treatment products they should have never ever given in to their patients. To learn that s was infected through contaminated treatment products made us feel like we (his parents) had done it him as well. We were devastated and felt cheated.
Section 5. Impact of the Infection
12.I refer to paragraphs 4 to 9 above.
13 s is our only child. The fear and stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS was terrible. We were advised to inform the school in case s had an accident or a nosebleed there. I had to go and tell them, but that was the only time I ever told anyone. I would like to think that the school were discrete with the information, but I don't know for sure. s was bullied. We were living in GRO-B at that time and s didn't share the local accent. He missed school time through haemophilia but often made up reasons not to go in.
14. s has more recently confided in me that he considered suicide on several occasions as he became older. He married at the age of second being late in meeting someone he felt he could confide in without being rejected.
15 s frightened to visit the dentist to the day. We were sent by the hospital to a practice at the farthest end of a centre for the very last appointment of the day and they came out at him in what I can only describe as space suits.
16. As eluded to previously, my husband's army promotion was put back/affected (he was pretty much made to no longer feel welcome in the Army) and we were

under huge strain. It is difficult to revisit those very dark days for all three of us in my mind.

### Section 6. Treatment/care/support

17. We had no counselling or psychological support.

## Section 7. Financial Assistance

18. I refer to s S Statement.

## **Anonymity**

19.1 do wish to remain anonymous and I understand that this redacted Statement will be disclosed for publication to the Inquiry.

#### Statement of Truth

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