

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1207001

Dated: April 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

GRO-B will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B I was born on GRO-B I live at GRO-B
GRO-B I am married with two children and I
work in customer services for GRO-B
2. My brother, GRO-B: B born on GRO-B was infected with
HIV as a result of being given contaminated blood products B died on
the B 1994; he was 40 years old.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my
late brother's 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

4. [B] had severe haemophilia A. He was badly affected by his haemophilia and he was confined to a wheel chair.
5. [B] was under the care of St James Hospital, Leeds.
6. The first treatment I can remember [B] receiving for his haemophilia was Factor VIII (FVIII) in the 1970's. He administered the treatment himself at home and it was kept in the fridge. [B] went to Lord Mayor Treloar College boarding school and boarded when he was between 11 and 16 years old. I am unsure what treatment he received at Treloars College.
7. I am unsure how or when [B] found out he was HIV positive.
8. In around 1987 my parents told me that [B] was HIV positive. My sister and I were at my house and I believe [B] had been on the local radio giving an interview about the situation. I was surprised because I did not know [B] was infected. When I found out my brother had HIV I was very upset, I knew it was an instant death sentence.
9. It was always my understanding that [B] was infected with HIV from the contaminated blood products as this was what my parents told me.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. I do not know if [B] received any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

11. I do not know if [B] was tested without his knowledge or consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

12. When my parents told us it was done in a very matter of fact way. Personally I buried my head in the sand as I could not bear to think about the consequences.

13. [B] never talked to me about his HIV infection and he went to all of his doctors appointments on his own. He was a very private person.

14. [B] made the most of the life he could lead. He liked to spend time with friends and he was involved in politics. He could not work though as he was not well enough. Having haemophilia prevented [B] from living a full life so it is difficult to know if it was the HIV or the haemophilia that was affecting his health.

15. I do not know if [B] received any treatment for the HIV, but I would assume he did. [B] was the eldest and our other sister is even younger than me so we were protected. Once I was aware of his condition it was hard to know that nothing was ever going to be the same. Whilst we were not aware of the treatment he was having I just wondered what would happen next.

16. I was not aware of any treatment [B] should have received at the time. I did not have any understanding of what was going on at the time. I did not think there was anything we could do for the HIV infection. It was only when the Contaminated Blood Inquiry came to light years later that I found out the doctors knew about this problem.

17. I am not quite sure what happened when [B] passed away. He had been to Italy on a trip and he had become unwell on the trip. He was having problems eating, drinking, and talking. He went into hospital on the 1st September and he remained there until he was transferred to a hospice. His health deteriorated very quickly. He died on the [GRO-B] 1994 [B]

had skin cancer. I was told that he died from cancer but I do not know if this was connected to the HIV.

18. [B] made a will near the end of his life. He left most of his money to my parents and his personal items were shared between his brothers and sisters.

19. When I found out about [B]'s HIV infection it was painful because I knew our lives were not going to be the same again. We all knew that at some stage [B] was going to get seriously ill, and we just had to wait. We were always wondering what was going to happen next. With regard to the HIV we did not know what to expect.

20. I felt like [B] being infected with HIV was very unfair but unfortunately we could not turn the clock back.

21. When we were sitting with [B] after he died the staff at the hospice mentioned that we could not sit with him for very long due to the fact he was HIV positive. The staff wanted to sort him out straight away. This made me very upset. I was not aware of any issues with his funeral arrangements.

22. I had one sister and two brothers; [B] was the eldest. We idolised him and were very protected by our parents about his illness. I did not have an understanding at the time of his death; it is only as more information has come to light that I am making this statement.

23. My son is a haemophiliac but has not been affected as he is only 26 years old.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

24. I did not receive any counselling. I do not know if my parents were offered any but if they were they did not tell me.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

25. I know B received the normal disability benefits. I also believe he did receive another pay-out but I am not sure how much. I think it was £30,000 but I cannot say for sure.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

26. I do wish to apply for anonymity and I understand that this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not wish to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..

GRO-B

GRO-B

Dated11/7/2019.....

ANONYMOUS

MEDICAL SUMMARY

(This summary is not intended to be exhaustive but sets out key points in the records relevant to the Statement)

This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late brother's medical records.