

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN1233001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: July 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** and I was born on **GRO-B** I live at **GRO-B** I am married with two children, a daughter aged 2 and a son aged 4.
2. My mother, **GRO-B** **GRO-B** and brother, **GRO-B** **GRO-B** **GRO-B** have also provided witness statements for the Inquiry. I would like to defer to both my mother's and brother's statements in relation to all factual and historical matters points because I find the whole matter incredibly distressing.
3. I make this statement as an affected son of my late father, **GRO-B: F** **F** who was born on **GRO-B** and passed away aged only 40 on **GRO-B** as a result of receiving contaminated Factor VIII concentrates.
4. My father was infected with Hepatitis C and HIV following his use of Factor VIII concentrates.

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

Section 2. How Affected

6. My father was diagnosed with very mild Haemophilia at the age of [GRO-B]. His clotting factor was [GRO-B]. He led a normal life and actively played contact sports such as rugby and never really had any problems associated with his Haemophilia.
7. He was treated at the [GRO-B] at the [GRO-B] [GRO-B].
8. He only received Factor VIII concentrates on [GRO-B] [GRO-B] at the [GRO-B] for a [GRO-B] and the [GRO-B] for an [GRO-B] to [GRO-B] at the [GRO-B]. I believe my father was infected with Hepatitis C and HIV during the eye procedure at the eye unit. I believe this because he was very ill following this procedure.
9. In [GRO-B] my parents received a letter from a [GRO-B] at the [GRO-B] stating my father may have been infected with HIV and was requested to have a blood test. Following the test, the results came back confirming that he tested positive for HIV. I believe he deserved more than a letter, even a phone call would have been more appropriate.
10. In [GRO-B] my father was told that he had Hepatitis C. He was having some medical complications and the doctors could not figure out what it was. They thought it was the treatment he was receiving for HIV. However, following a blood test, they found out that he had Hepatitis C.
11. I do not believe that my father was given much information and I do not think he was well managed at all. In relation to the HIV infection, [GRO-B] [GRO-B] and was told by [GRO-B] to use condoms, not have children and not to share a toothbrush. However, at the time my parents

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already had me [GRO-B] My mother was a [GRO-B] and she [GRO-B] I believe the NHS doctors that diagnosed him and those subsequently treating him lent on the fact that [GRO-B] rather than providing compassion and support that would be common place now.

12. I believe my father should have been given information and advice about the risks associated with Factor VIII concentrates prior to being treated with the same.

13. As previously stated, the way the doctors communicated the infections to my father was poor. He was [GRO-B] that he was infected and it was out of the blue. The news was life changing which should have been communicated through other means instead of a letter.

14. Both [GRO-B] and I were born shortly after my father's HIV infection. Thankfully, [GRO-B], mother and I were not infected.

15. For further information in relation to this section, please refer to my mother's witness statement.

Section 3. Other Infections

16. As far as I am aware, my father did not have any other infections. However, he ended up having a [GRO-B] [GRO-B]

Section 4. Consent

17. I believe that by the time my parents received the [GRO-B] the doctors already knew of my father's HIV status but failed to tell him. I do not know whether he was treated and tested without his knowledge.

18. I believe he was tested without his consent in relation to the HIV infection, but he was tested with his consent in relation to the Hepatitis C infection.

19. My father played contact sports without any issues in relation to his haemophilia, so I do not understand why he even needed Factor VIII concentrates for the dental and eye procedure. I think it was quite strange that he received Factor VIII concentrates in the first place and that he was probably tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

20. I was told very little about my father's condition. I think that I was aged about 14 when I was told that my father was seriously ill. However, I can't remember any of the context of this but it dawned on me that he was then very poorly and was probably not going to live for very long. I think that by this time my parents were well aware that my father's condition was rapidly deteriorating and that there would be no hiding how poorly he was going to become.

21. Apart from the last two years of my father's life when he was extremely poorly and particularly so after his liver transplant, I remember him as a tall and strong person. I remember great times when I was younger, going on holiday, playing sports and always having my father there. I remember him coming back from working away and always coming back with a toy for me and my brother. I remember a man who worked hard to give us experiences.

22. I remember my father looking for work once, when I asked he always said that they would not employ him because he was ill, I never really understood, or pressed, for meaning. He did it anyway, and I remember him instilling that work ethic in both myself and my brother.

23. During my early teenage years I was, perhaps, a difficult child. I remember all I wanted to do was play ice hockey and hang around with my friends. Because I didn't realise how ill, or how quickly he would deteriorate I neglected to spend quality time with my father, and by the time I turned 16 in GRO-B it was too late as he died 11 days later.

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24. I remember a once strong man, turning to skin and bones and all I can remember of myself is just how useless and how lost for words I was.
25. What happened to my father deeply affected me and following his passing the only way I continued to function was to become extremely focused on achieving things. However, at the same time I completely bottled everything up and still do. I was also filled with a complete rage and felt horrendously out of control; so much so that my mother took me to the GP for anger management. However, we only got as far as the door of the session because I could not go through with it. I still regret this decision today.
26. Now I am older, although the rage is still there, I am able to control my anger better. However, I still have moments where everything feels completely uncontrollable. The rage often comes at really silly things but I understand that this is quite normal. Recently, since the start of this Inquiry, and since I have had to come to terms with more information I find myself occasionally breaking down in tears when I think of my father. I attended a training week for work in Calais a few months back and the 'talking' toy was one of those giant microbes, it was the Hep C one... I lasted all week and on the drive home I ran everything through my mind. When I got home I am sure my wife and children thought something was seriously wrong as I was uncontrollably upset.
27. I do think that my parents should have sat me down and explained at least some of what was going on with my father. Having no information has only made my path harder, however when I think about my own children I am not sure I would tell them everything.
28. My father's illnesses meant that being picked up from school by other people and other similar things became the norm. Our life was not normal but because my brother and I did not know any different, we did not really ask any questions or indeed question it ourselves.
29. I remember that there was always an unspoken rule in our family that my brother and I were not allowed to play fight too hard with our father.

30. I recall a situation where my father had a nosebleed and I caught one of the drops of blood. This had been a natural reaction. However, my mother immediately rushed me to the sink to have my hands washed. I had no understanding of why she had acted in this strange way.

31. I think about all the things I plan to do with my children when they are older, and all the things that my father missed out on being a part of, my first legal pint, my graduation, my wedding, his grandchildren being born and my eventual passing of my motorbike test.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

32. As previously stated, there was a delay in receiving treatment. The GRO-B was not a liked institution as their etiquette and professionalism was bad.

33. As previously stated, there is a letter describing an argument over who will pay for my father's treatment in relation to the Hepatitis C, the GP or hospital. I believe my father should have received funding for the treatment when the treatment first became available regardless of the costs.

34. A psychiatrist, GRO-B approached my father and gave him psychological support but she was GRO-B
GRO-B She was available to our whole family.

35. I have not been offered any counselling in relation to what happened to my father.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

36. I wish to rely on my mother's witness statement in relation to this section as she was assisting my father with the finances at the time.

37. I believe I received some school uniform grants and holiday money. I do not know which trust or funds provided the financial assistance. I never

personally had the money in my bank but the payments were made to my mother for me and my brother.

38. My brother GRO-B although he does not remember getting one.

39. I managed to enter University with discounted fees due to the fact that my mother was a single parent with a low/no income.

40. I also recall that the Macfarlane Trust (MFT) paid for my University books.

41. I had no dealings with the MFT; this was all handled by my mother. I had no understanding of why the MFT were helping our family, other than a link to my father.

Section 8. Other Issues

42. I have no belief that this Inquiry will achieve anything. I sit and watch all these affected and infected people recalling the worst parts of their lives and how they have been destroyed, yet I believe that the NHS and all associated organisations in this scandal will do everything possible to frustrate and deceive the public. Frankly the fact that this hasn't been outed and sorted for over 35 years is an outrage.

43. I want the Inquiry to ask those who committed and covered up these acts what they would do if an innocent loved one was given a death sentence.

Anonymity

44. I want to apply for anonymity and I do not wish to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed..

GRO-B

Dated... 31/7/19