

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN1405001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: February 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 I live at **GRO-B**
GRO-B.
2. I am single and live alone. I am not currently working but I receive benefits.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full 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. I suffer from **GRO-B** I was **GRO-B**.
5. I was first treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) when I was **GRO-B** old in the early **GRO-B**. Every time I had a bleed, I had to go into hospital for treatment. I have always been treated at **GRO-B**.

ANONYMOUS

6. I was taught how to self administer FVIII in or about [GRO-B] and I would only have treatment as and when I had a bleed.
7. In the [GRO-B] I received a telephone call from the hospital and I was asked to have a random blood test. I was not told what the blood test was for and I assumed it was for my Haemophilia. Approximately 6 months after the blood test, I was called into the hospital for a meeting. I was told by a Haematology doctor in a very casual way that I had tested positive for Hepatitis C (Hep C). I was shocked to hear this. I walked around for [GRO-B] not even knowing I had Hep C.
8. I do not believe I was provided with any information about Hep C. I do not believe I was given adequate information to help me understand and manage the infection and I believe that information should have probably been provided to me earlier.
9. It was not until 10 years later that I was provided with information about the risks of others being infected.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. I do not believe I have contracted any other infections other than Hep C.
11. In the early [GRO-B] I do recall seeing a letter in my medical records stating that I could be at the risk of having contracted vCJD when I was at a hospital appointment. I do not believe that I received a copy through the post. I did not have a follow up consultation about it nor have I received anything further from the doctors.
12. I recall that the doctors put a sticker on my medical folder, to show that I had a potential risk of having vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

13. I do not believe that I was treated or tested without my knowledge or consent. When my treatment changed from Cryoprecipitate to FVIII, I was told about

the change of name of the treatment but was not provided with any other information about it.

14. I was also not informed that I was going to be tested for Hep C and I was only told that I tested positive approximately 6 months later.

15. I do not believe I was tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

16. As a result of the Hep C infection, I suffered a lot of physical effects such as stomach pains and indigestion. I also suffered from fatigue and tiredness. At the time I was unable to link the above symptoms to the infection. It was a few years ago when I received a leaflet which listed symptoms for Hep C that I was able to link them to it. Fortunately, I did not suffer mentally as a result of the infection.

17. In or about GRO-B I was told that there was treatment available for me. I started a course a 3 month course of Ribavirin. Prior to this, I was offered Interferon treatment which consisted of tablets and injections. I was not keen on having injections as I was having stomach problems at the time and I believed that the injections to my stomach would cause some side effects. I was also told that the side effects were horrible and affected a lot of people badly. I therefore refused the Interferon treatment but accepted the Ribavirin treatment later on, which just consisted of tablets which I was able to deal with.

18. I was told that the Ribavirin treatment cleared the infection. I had a recent blood test and the results were that the Hep C is undetectable.

19. When this new treatment was available, I was called promptly by the hospital and offered it which I was glad about. Luckily, I did not face any side effects from the treatment.

20. I did not face any stigma as a result of being infected with Hep C. All the people that I did tell were very supportive and did not exclude me in anyway. I mainly told my close friends and family.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

21. I do not believe I have faced any difficulties or obstacles in obtaining treatment, care and support as a result of being infected with Hep C.

22. I can not remember if counselling or psychological support was ever offer to me and I am not sure to what extent it would have helped me if it was offered.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

23. In or about [GRO-B] I received a lump sum payment of £20,000 from the Skipton Fund. I found out about the Skipton Fund through a nurse who told me in conversation at [GRO-B] I believe the application process was simple and straight forward.

24. For the past [GRO-B] I have received [GRO-B] from the Skipton Fund who have now changed to the EIBSS. Since last year, this payment was increased to [GRO-B] and the increase was backdated. This application process was also simple and straight forward.

25. Late last year, EIBSS sent me another form for an income top-up and since last year I have received additional [GRO-B] a month.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

26. I wish to apply for anonymity.

27. I do not wish to provide oral evidence at the Inquiry.

ANONYMOUS

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B

Dated 22.2.2019