

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN0670015

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 26.1.2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIFTH WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I provide this further supplementary statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5 March 2019.

I, **GRO-B** will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B** My date of birth is **GRO-B** 1952. I live in **GRO-B** and my full address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I make this fourth supplementary statement in addition to my initial statement of 30 July 2019 (and my further supplementary statements of 17 October 2019; 22 November 2019 and 19 May 2021).
3. In my first statement to the Inquiry dated 31st July 2019 I stated in paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of how in 2003 I had been informed of my HCV infection by a junior doctor in a public corridor of Kings College hospital. Unfortunately, I do not know the name of the junior doctor but

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at the time I was under the care of Dr John O'Grady, Senior Consultant Hepatologist at King's College Hospital.

4. As head of the department Dr O'Grady was not only responsible for my care but also for the professional conduct of his staff. I would like Dr O'Grady to explain why I was treated in such a contemptuous manner by one of his junior doctors when they informed me in the public space of a hospital corridor that I had been infected with HCV. Is this the way junior doctors are trained to consult patients and impart such devastating news? To have such life-changing information imparted in such a public space, where our conversation was overheard by other people in the vicinity, is an abysmal failure of care, emotionally abusive and exceedingly unprofessional.
5. I wrote a letter of complaint to Dr O'Grady on the 30 October 2019 about this event but did not receive a reply from him personally. I did receive a reply from a Dr Suddle of the Hepatology department who told me that Dr O'Grady had left King's College Hospital and they were not able to pass my letter on to him. However, my research led me to understand Dr O'Grady was still employed at King's College in October 2019 so I have no idea why he chose to ignore my complaint and evade the issues I raised. Either that or Dr Suddle intercepted my letter and intervened on Dr O'Grady's behalf in order to suppress my complaint, which seems improbable but does call into question exactly what took place. I wrote to Dr Suddle on the 6 November 2019 asking him to pass my letter on to Dr O'Grady but to date have not received a reply either from him or Dr O'Grady.
6. Additionally, I should like Dr O'Grady to explain why, when his junior colleague informed me that I had contracted HCV in the hospital corridor, she asked me if I had ever used drugs in spite of being aware of my previous liver trauma? King's College Hepatology department knew I had damaged my liver in a serious road traffic accident in 1969 that required emergency treatment and I had probably received a blood transfusion. In spite of this it's clear the Hepatology department and the

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junior doctor in question had assumed drug use as causation and made no effort whatsoever to establish if a blood transfusion was the source of my HCV infection.

7. If I had been made aware in 2003 that a blood transfusion was possibly the source of my HCV infection, I would then have begun tracing any records to verify that likelihood. This would have been crucial in obtaining medical evidence that has since been destroyed and which could have gone some way to confirming that I was infected with HCV by the blood transfusion I received on 26 December 1969. However, the prejudice and bias shown by King's College hospital (and others) in 2003 prevented this and it was not until some 16 years later, in 2019, and prompted by my involvement with the Inquiry, that I actually began trying to trace my medical records.
8. I have decided to bring this to the attention of the Inquiry at this late stage because those people criticised in my statements now have the opportunity to respond to those criticisms. Consequently, I feel the circumstances surrounding the manner of the disclosure of my infection at King's College Hospital sometime in May 2003, needs to be explained in more detail by those professionals who were responsible for my care at the time.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-B

Signed

26.1.2022

Dated