

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN1459001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: April 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** DOB **GRO-B** and I live at **GRO-B**
GRO-B
2. My son, **GRO-B: S** DOB **GRO-B** died on **GRO-B** after being infected with Hepatitis C by infected blood products.
3. My wife **GRO-B** has also provided a statement to the Inquiry. This can be found at **GRO-B**
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late son's 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

5. When [S] was nine months old he bit his tongue and it would not stop bleeding for a long time.
6. Later when [S] was seven years old he had his tonsils removed which was an absolute disaster and he wouldn't stop bleeding. It was after this that he was diagnosed with mild haemophilia B.
7. [S] was diagnosed with Hepatitis C when he was 14/15 years old however they didn't tell him until he was 21 years old. [S] was told about his infection by a letter and he did not receive any real information about the disease.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. [S] was told that he may have been exposed to vCJD. He went to the hospital for tests where he was then told that he did not have this disease.

Section 4. Consent

9. [S] was completely shocked when he was diagnosed with Hepatitis C. I therefore do not believe that he ever consented to such tests. [S] was a minor when he was diagnosed by the doctors, and we did not consent to these tests either.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

10. [S] was playing for [GRO-B] boys when he was a teenager. He would have loved to become a footballer but if this dream wasn't achieved he would have become a plumber. However, [S] was never able to work as he was so fatigued as a result of his infection.

- 11 [S] became very depressed and he was very angry after being informed of his diagnosis. He said he had been given a death sentence.
- 12 [S] was so angry and he just wanted someone to blame, so we were often the recipients of this anger. He even blamed us for the fact that he suffered from haemophilia.
13. As [S]'s father, it was horrible to see the effect that his infection had on him, both physically and mentally. [S] started to drink heavily after he was diagnosed, he lost his girlfriend and his life long friends from infant school.
14. He suffered from the stigma of the virus and would be accused by people of having HIV.
- 15 [S] was treated with Interferon in an attempt to cure the virus, however it made him feel absolutely terrible and he decided to stop the treatment as he could no longer continue. This was the only treatment that [S] was given.
- 16 [S] was irresponsible with money because he was living with a death sentence over his head. He would say that he was here "for a good time not a long time".
- 17 [S] had a seizure shortly before his death but he was discharged after an overnight visit. I think the doctors just put it down to his drinking and disregarded his haemophilia and his infection.
- 18 [S] died at home in his flat on [GRO-B] It was my wife and I that found his body. We couldn't bury [S] for 3 weeks as there had to be an inquest.
- 19 [S] has [GRO-B] to whom he was very close, and he has [GRO-B] who lost [GRO-B]

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

20. I don't believe [S] was ever offered counselling. My wife and I were also never offered counselling.

21. Other than the one course of Interferon treatment, [S] was never offered any other treatment to cure his Hepatitis C. There was no real communication between [GRO-B]

Section 7. Financial Assistance

22. [S] received two lump sum payments from the Skipton Fund.

23. In the last few years of his life he was given monthly payments of around £1100.

Section 8. Other Issues

24. Someone needs to be held accountable for what happened to [S] and everyone else who was infected.

25. The money they were given is a pittance for a life. They should have been fully supported financially.

Anonymity

26. I wish to remain anonymous.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... **GRO-B**

Dated 03/05/2019