

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1509001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: May 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 live GRO-B  
GRO-B I was born on GRO-B I am GRO-B  
and living with GRO-B I work full time as a GRO-B
2. I provide this witness statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006.
3. I am providing this statement without 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 medical chronology at the end of this statement.
4. I was very young at the time of some of the events I refer to in my statement and some of the information I give has been obtained from my mother.

**Section 2. How infected**

5. I was diagnosed with Von Willibrand Disease (VWD) at the age of [GRO-B] [GRO-B]. This is a condition that other members of my family such as my [GRO-B] [GRO-B] have suffered from. My [GRO-B] is a carrier.
6. As a child I bruised and bled easily and so my parents had me tested. I believe I was tested at the [GRO-B]. This was the hospital I was treated at subsequently.
7. When I was [GRO-B] or [GRO-B] years old I broke my arm and was treated for this at [GRO-B].
8. My mother believes that it was during the treatment following my broken arm that I became infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). This would have been sometime between [GRO-B] and [GRO-B].
9. I was treated with cryoprecipitate at the hospital. I remember that the nurse would call it "jungle juice". Later on I was also treated with Factor VIII concentrate. If I hurt myself in anyway, I would be taken to the hospital and treated with Factor VIII. All my treatments were done at the hospital, never at home.
10. As previously stated, my mother believes it was during the treatment with cryoprecipitate that I was infected with HCV. After receiving this treatment, I became very ill.
11. I was ill for months and months. During this period my mother received a call from a doctor called [GRO-B]. He explained to her that there was a chance and he was concerned that I may have contracted HIV/AIDS. From that point on, [GRO-B].

GRO-B dealt with everything relating to my care. My doctor before this was GRO-B  
GRO-B.

12. I had a blood test and my mother was told that I had contracted Non A-Non B Hepatitis (later called Hepatitis C) as a result of treatment that I had received.

13. My mother does not recall where she was when she was told about my infection. She remembers that there was a nurse called GRO-B who was crying and saying that she was very sorry. GRO-B told my mother that it was a bad batch and that it had happened to somebody else. My mother had the impression that they knew there was a risk with the treatment they gave to me but they went ahead and gave it to me anyway. My mother did not know about the risks of the treatment I had received.

14. During my illness, my mother cared for me at home full time. She cannot recall what drugs I had during this period but says that I spent a lot of time at the hospital and that many tests were carried out. I was put on supplements as I was not eating. I do not know how long this went on for but it was long enough that my mother was given attendance allowance for looking after me.

15. My liver function did not return to normal for years after this illness. I do not know how long my liver function was abnormal and my mother does not remember.

16. In GRO-B, when I was GRO-B years old, I broke my right ankle and was treated at the GRO-B. I was told by my doctor that my liver function test was normal. I had a blood test at the same time which showed that I no longer had HCV - my body had cleared the infection naturally.

17. I had a liver function test last year at the GRO-B. The consultant was GRO-B. I did not hear back from the hospital and therefore I have assumed that the results of my test were normal.

**Section 3. Other Infections**

18. I have not been tested for any other infections other than already mentioned.

**Section 4. Consent**

19. It is impossible for me to say whether or not I was ever tested or treated without consent or for the purposes of research. My mother does not remember what was said to her about the reasons I was being tested.

20. I do remember that my blood was constantly being taken at the hospital. It happened so often that I stopped thinking about it. My mother says that I would not even flinch when my blood was taken. I pretty much became a pin cushion.

**Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

21. I was very ill for months and months after being infected. I did not eat and I slept constantly. When I was awake it was as though I was in a trance. I was so lethargic that I had to be carried around. I was jaundiced and could not eat dairy products. I was losing weight and wasting away.

22. I missed out on a lot of time at school. I had to have extra tutoring to help me catch up on what I had missed.

23. When I returned to school things had changed. Rumours had spread about me. The other children teased me and said that I had AIDS. They would not play with me. Parents did not want their kids to play with me. It felt too like the teachers treated me differently. I no longer liked school. I did not want to go to school after that but I had to keep going. This continued throughout my primary school years.

## ANONYMOUS

24. Secondary school was better. As I got older, I still got teased a little bit but it had started to fade. I did my GCSEs and left school aged [GRO-B]
25. I tried going into the [GRO-B] after I left school but after sustaining a broken ankle while playing football decided to do other work. I did various jobs through agencies and then went on to become a [GRO-B]
26. Even though I no longer have HCV, I have to disclose my history of having had this disease whenever I fill in health questionnaires.
27. I was turned away for a tattoo because of my history of HCV. All my friends were asking why and I had to explain to them that it was cleared. A lot of people think HCV cannot be cured.
28. I feel like people look at me differently once they know I have had HCV – they think I am a junkie. I don't know if people actually treat me differently but it is always at the back of my mind and this makes me feel like they do.
29. Even though my liver is ok, because of my history of HCV, I prefer not to drink alcohol. I have been tee total all my life.
30. I have suffered from depression since being a child. I have taken prescribed drugs for it. I don't know if this is linked to my illness when I was aged [GRO-B]. My mother says that I was never the same after my illness.
31. I do feel that my illness when I was aged [GRO-B] or [GRO-B] may have stopped me from developing. For a very long period I did not eat - my body was too busy fighting the infection. I was a small child and then a small teenager. My dad is a tall. My son, who recently turned [GRO-B] is twice my size. No one in my family is my size.
32. I have grown up not trusting people. I find relationships difficult, not just male-female ones, but all relationships. I was picked on, teased and bullied so much as a child and I feel that perhaps this is why I find it hard to trust people.

33. I have panic attacks and suffer from stress. I'm very moody and emotional. I do not know if this has anything to do with my HCV infection.

34. I often feel very tired. Again, I do not know if this is anything to do with my HCV infection. I do work very long hours.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

35. I had a lot of dental work done lately. I told the lady who treated me that I had previously had HCV. I felt like I was treated differently because of it, but I don't know for sure, it is always at the back of my mind.

36. Other than this, I do not believe I have been treated differently by medical personnel as a result of having had HCV.

37. My treatment for VWD is at the GRO-B. I try and live my life and not let it affect me. If I have an accident I go to GRO-B for treatment. For treatment I have had factor 8 synthetic tablets – tranexamic acid and also some sort of injection to stop me from bleeding.

38. I have not had any treatment or counselling for HCV.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

39. I have not received any financial assistance from any trust or fund.

#### **Section 8. Other Issues**

40. I do not wish to raise any other issues at this stage.



**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

41. I confirm that I wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

42. I do not wish to be called to give oral evidence.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-B .....

Dated... 18/05/2019 .....