Witness Name: Neil Cruickshank
Statement No.: WITN2839001
Exhibits: **WITN2839002 -012**
Dated: 12th March 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF NEIL CRUICKSHANK

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated the 28th January 2019.

I, Neil Cruickshank, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Neil Cruickshank. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1977 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about my experience of becoming infected with hepatitis C. In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment received and the impact it had on my family and our lives together.

Section 2. How Infected

2. I was diagnosed with severe haemophilia A when I was a baby. This is in my medical notes and I produce these notes in evidence and identify them as **WITN2839002**. This means that I experience painful internal bleeding which require factor VIII for treatment. Sometimes, I would

receive treatment three, four or five times a week. It used to be very frequent when I was younger. As I got older, the bleeds became less frequent and I started to learn how to prevent myself from getting hurt. My body also became stronger. I was involved in sports such as canoeing, cycling and many others at school. The reason for this involvement in sports is that I hoped that exercise and being fit would help in stopping the bleeding. It did seem to make things better.

3. I found out that I was infected with hepatitis C when I was about 12 or 13 years old. A family friend who was a doctor, volunteering with my mother and I for a Haemophilia Society adventure holiday my mother had set up, because schools were refusing to take us on school trips since I was at primary school. His name is Professor Henry G Watson. There is evidence in my medical notes that I was hepatitis C positive then in 1991. I refer to this evidence as **WITN2839003**.

4. I received Factor VIII to treat my haemophilia. I might also have received cryoprecipitate as a baby.

5. I was treated at the haematology department at the Royal Infirmary in Aberdeen. The doctors who treated me were Dr Bennett, Dr Dawson, Dr King, Dr Radcliffe and Dr Tay. I do not think that I saw these last two doctors very much and they would only treat me if the ones who normally dealt with haemophilia were not there.

6. In the year 2000, I was moved onto recombinant factor VIII when I had an operation on my left ankle. This new product did not work as well, but I think I was moved on to it because it was safer.

7. I believe that as soon as I was infected with Factor VIII, I became infected with hepatitis C. It is hard to tell because when I was born, no one knew about hepatitis C and there were no tests for it.

8. I believe that I could have been infected at any point from the moment of my birth up until my early teens. I was infected with multiple genotype hepatitis C. This means that I have contracted every type or strain of hepatitis C.

9. I did not receive any advice about the risk of becoming infected before Factor VIII was administered. Neither did my parents. My mother received a phone call in the 80's, this was very scary due to the news about HIV. I remember trying to hide the bleeds and not have treatment for as long as possible in order to reduce the risk of having AIDS. When my mother received that phone call, she was advised for me not to take the Factor VIII that we had in the fridge at home. The phone call was made by someone from the haemophilia centre in Aberdeen. I think I was older than eight years old at the time, because prior to me becoming eight, my mother used to inject me with the Factor VIII and once I became eight I started doing it myself. We were told that if anything serious happened I should be taken to hospital and not to go anywhere near the Factor VIII that we were keeping in the fridge at home. I know that I was older than eight at the time when my mother received that phone call, but I could not say whether that was before or after we knew about the infection.

10. My mother and I found out that I was infected when we went to the clinic for me to get tested. We had to enquire about this. I was told at the time that I had antigens for hepatitis C and antibodies for hepatitis A GRO-D GRO-D The Doctor's name was Audrey Dawson. There is a letter in my medical notes from Doctor Audrey Dawson informing my GP of my hepatitis status. I produce this letter in evidence and identify it as **WITN2839004**. I asked whether that meant that I actually had hepatitis C. The doctor had to admit that it did. She also did not admit that the reason why I had antibodies for hepatitis C was because I had had this without knowing. I remember that prior to being told that I had contracted hepatitis C, I was attached to a vapour

machine with a chest infection on at least two occasions. On both occasions, I was told that all I had was a virus. What made me get tested was the fact that Dr Henry Watson was a family friend and he was working at the hospital in Edinburgh. Dr Watson was urging his patients to get tested because he was aware that something was going on. They said they hepatitis C was nothing to worry about and that it was best not to drink at all, or to drink very little as the illness could cause liver problems. I had a vaccination for hepatitis B, but nothing for hepatitis A. Nothing was available for hepatitis C at the time. I always thought that I would die quite young probably in my 20s, and that I would not live to be an adult. I was very angry and decided to enjoy every minute of my life.

11. The doctor who told me that I was infected with hepatitis C was Dr Dawson. At the time when she told me, GRO-D GRO-D and said that there were no known treatments for hepatitis C and that she was not entirely sure what the illness did, she just knew that it would increase liver problems.

12. I do not think that I was given enough information to help me understand and manage hepatitis C on a day-to-day basis.

13. I was never told that hepatitis C ould be transmitted in any way or passed on to others. I had to find out about these matters on my own. I remember that at some point I was sent to get my liver scanned. This was an ultrasound scan and my liver was found to be fine.

14. I believe that at the time when I was told that I was infected with hepatitis C, it went without saying where the infection came from. It was actually a nurse by the name of Joan Rae who said that there was things in the Factor VIII because more of the haemophiliacs were considerably bigger than the rest of the family members. I was told that I must have been infected by the Factor VIII. I know from my study of biology, the Factor was separated from the blood by centrifuge so other proteins the same

molecular weight, would be mixed in.

15. My view about how the results of tests and information about the infection were communicated to me is that it was all handled very badly. I believe that information should have been provided sooner. It appeared to me that the doctors were at a loss on what to do. I think that Dr Dawson was a lovely and caring person. I remember that when I was a child, she would wash her hands with hot water before touching me because they were normally cold. She was a religious person and had a kind nature.

16. I remember that from the beginning I had to inject Piriton before injecting Factor VIII in order to prevent infections or allergic reactions from the blood. We should have been warned about the consequences that could be linked to Factor VIII. I believe that we should have been told about the risk of becoming infected with hepatitis C, HIV and other infections. However, no information was ever volunteered by the medical professionals. It was very frightening and I suspect that the breathing difficulties that I had in the past before being told that I was infected with hepatitis C came from the infection.

17. I was not allowed any vaccinations when I was younger because they could cause a bleed, but despite this I was never ill with mumps or chickenpox or any other common childhood diseases. I think that my immune system was strong and I also remember that at the time there was a myth that eating a lot of red meat was good for haemophiliacs, so my mother was constantly ordering meat from the butchers.

Section 3. Other Infections

18. I was infected with hepatitis A and hepatitis C as a result of being given contaminated blood products. In 2002, I received a letter from Aberdeen Infirmary informing me that I was at risk of having vCJD from an infected

batch of blood, so I may also have that as well although I have no symptoms. I produce a copy of this letter in evidence and identify it as **WITN2839005.**

Section 4. Consent

19. I suspect that I have been treated or tested without my knowledge, without my consent, and without being given full information. The reason why I suspect this is due to the information that has come to light in the previous inquiry. I think that we have been monitored and tested without our knowledge. There is evidence in my medical notes that I was tested in 1986 for the AIDS virus. I was never informed of this. I produce this entry in evidence and I identify it as **WITN2839006**. I would like to know what their motives were for this. I think that there are people whom the medical professionals did not tell that they were infected with HIV and they passed the illness on to partners. There is a letter to my own GP dated 20th April1993 saying that I had been tested for Hepatitis C and HIV and I was negative. I was not aware that I had been tested for either of these infections. I produce a copy of this letter in evidence and identify it as **WITN2839007.**

20. I believe that I have been treated and tested for the purposes of research, but I do not have any evidence of this.

Section 5. Impact

21. Being told that I was infected with hepatitis A and hepatitis C at that age had a great mental and physical impact on me. I felt very angry and scared that they wouldn't let me know whether or not I had contracted HIV as well. Mentally, I was sane back then and enjoyed every minute that I had because I did not think that I would live very long. I developed a massive hatred for the Government and figures of authority as I don't think that they have people's best interests at heart, but rather their own

interests. I was very fit and enjoyed cycling and swimming. It was when I went to university, particularly during my first year that my depression got worse and I started spending a lot of time in my room, not even wanting to go to the canteen for my meals.

22. My mother then sent a haemophiliac friend to check on me. My hair started falling out and the skin on my hands started peeling. I thought I was dying. My health started to go downhill and I had to walk up and down stairs and on cobble a lot due to the layout of my university campus, which also affected my health. I had to take some time off from university and the staff were quite good about it. However, when I went on to my second year, the staff were awful about me taking any time off. I had always wanted to be a doctor and was persuaded not to as I was told by Dr Bennett that I would not be physically fit for the role. The truth about this is that the haemophiliacs in the medical profession were being pushed out of their jobs.

23. At university, the place where I required to drop my essays and my medical notes was upstairs and I struggled with this. Quite often, I was not able to get things handed in on time. The hospital was linked to the university that I attended. I believe that it was all very corrupt because a friend of mine, also a haemophiliac, passed his degree with flying colours but he was not able to join the medical profession as a result of the corruption of the system. I do not think that they wanted me joining the medical profession either. This was the biomedical sciences dept. who were responsible for testing my blood.

24. I do not know whether or not the symptoms that I was experiencing during my time at university were linked to the hepatitis C or the vitamin D depletion. The doctor did tell me that I should be taking vitamin D supplements as people in this part of the world need it during the winter months.

25. My mother's hairdresser said that deficiency in vitamin D was the cause of my problems. My tiredness started to get worse as I got older and I started sleeping more than normal. It was hard for me to get to lectures in time and I had to withdraw from my second year of university in order to have an operation on my ankle.

26. After that, I had a bad breakup with my fiancée. I had depression as a result of the stress that I was under. I saw a psychotherapist and was fine after that. Afterwards, I started to experience night sweats to the point where I was sleeping naked on top of the bed with the window open in even -7°C temperatures outside. In around the year 2000, I spoke to the doctor about a new treatment.

27. I did not develop any medical conditions from the infection, other than fatigue, sleep problems and sweating at night. I never suffered from a damaged liver. I get liver function tests every six months and my liver is still fine. However, I did have kidney stones.

28. I have only ever had one treatment for my hepatitis C. This was in the year 2000. They had been testing Interferon alpha peg and Ribavirin. They had been testing it and the treatment was still experimental when I took it. It was showing high chances of success, and I believe that this treatment had about 60 or 70% success rates and almost every patient that went on it was clear. I knew that there were risks, including the risk of mental illness. Although I was told it would be temporary, I have reactions to things sometimes and I wanted to collect more data about how safe the treatment would be for me. I know that at the time many people with HIV refused this treatment, as it was not known how safe it would be for them. I think that the main hepatitis C patients were either in the army or drug addicts. I wanted to get rid of hepatitis C because

fatigue was starting to become a bit more of a problem. I was on the treatment for two or three months. Eventually, I had to be taken off it. While on interferon I was stopped by the police GRO-C GRO-C. I lost my livece and had to pay a fine. The only evidence I was unfit was I couldn't do roadside tests involving standing on one leg or hopping up and down on one leg. This has had financial implications of increased car insurance. I rely on my car to get to the hospital and seek support of the family. Also longer lasting implications of psychiatrists and the DVLA questioning my ability to driver at the moment I have a yearly medical review. When I was stopped on interferon the only evidence I was unfit to drive. To make things worse, this is the same time of year with the incident with the police, so it causes me undue worry.

29. The treatment made me mentally ill and I was behaving erratically GRO-C GRO-C GRO-C There is a letter dated the 3rd July, 2002 that describes my erratic mental state whilst on the treatment. I produce this letter in evidence and identify it as **WITN2839008**. I was very unwell. When I was on interferon I wasn't given any access to any mental health team. There is a letter in my medical notes that refers to my mental state caused by the Interferon. I produce this letter in evidence and identify it as **WITN2839009**. The treatment made me experience increased fatigue, digestive problems, skin problems such as itchiness and sweats, insomnia, sickness, damage to my teeth to the point where I ended up losing some of them, hair loss, depression which was really bad and full on, not like it had been in the first year of university. I ended up not leaving the house and going between high manic and low depressions. I would go to the haematology department to seek help and get referrals to psychiatry. I ended up without a GP as I did not trust them, so I registered with the GP near the hospital. They then discharged me because I missed my appointment as

I was sleeping for long periods of time or not sleeping at all. This was the Forester Hill Road GP, which no longer exists. I also tried to get registered at the Denburn health centre, Aberdeen they also callously discharged me due to sleeping and my medical notes went missing in transit.

30. I ended up feeling really upset and constantly in shock. Everyone thought that I was a drug addict because I had lost so much weight and looked so pale. Eventually, I had to register with my family GP in Peterhead. Repeat referrals meant as well that six months went by every time before I was seen by a psychiatrist. They then ignored evidence of any mental illness because by the time I actually went to see the psychiatrist, I had managed to stabilise myself. Dr Watson said that he was sorry that I now had a mental illness due to the treatment, but that we had both known the risks before I actually went on the treatment. I never blamed him though.

31. Whereas I did not face any obstacles in having access to the treatment, I do think that because it is recognised that mental illness is a side effect of the treatment, a psychologist or psychiatrist should be available at the Department.

32. I do not think that there were any treatments that should have been made available to me but were not.

33. Becoming infected with hepatitis C affected my dental treatment. I did not feel comfortable going back to the dentist when I told her that the Interferon had destroyed my teeth. The antipsychotics that I was taking made me sleep for 16 hours a day and should not have been prescribed. They made me put on weight as well. Due to the side effects of the antipsychotics, I had to not take them the night before because the dentist refused to see

me in the afternoon and I required to sleep in the morning if I took the antipsychotics. I have had many negative responses from medical professionals when I mentioned my hepatitis C. At the Peterhead GP practice, there was a doctor who when I told him that I struggled mentally and was finding it difficult to find support, just said "bad luck". I was trying to get help but the lack of support made my mental health worse. I waited outside the surgery and the police turned up and spoke to me. The police then had a word with the doctor and I never saw that doctor again. I do not remember the doctor's name, but I do remember that the doctor had a funny eye. I also had a negative experience where a social worker in Cornhill, Aberdeen mental health unit wanted to attribute my experience with Interferon to recreational drug abuse.

34. Becoming infected with hepatitis C had a huge effect on my private life. It caused me to lose a lot of my friends and also most of the women that I loved, as it was too much for them. I did not speak of this to people. I did not drink often due to the hepatitis C. After treatment, it took me more than a couple of pints to get drunk, which worried me and I reduced my alcohol consumption. People would often assume that I was involved in drinking and drug use regardless.

35. More recently, due to the Inquiry being on the news, a guy from my local Role-Playing Club made a comment regarding haemophilia. This comment was unpleasant and inaccurate. I cannot remember all the details. I spoke to my friends and dealt with it. I also remember getting bullied at school because of HIV being on the media and people assuming that I had it. I got called "homo" and "filthy haemo". This led me to hide the fact that I had haemophilia. Haemophilia was linked to homosexuality, I was often a victim of homophobia despite not being a homosexual. People accused me of being a junkie because only homosexuals and drug addicts got HIV according to Thatcher's Government

36. There is a stigma attached to a diagnosis of hepatitis C and that is why I only told my very close friends that I had haemophilia.

37. When I was conducting research on Interferon and hepatitis C, one day I walked into the gym with crutches and overheard a conversation about me. These two guys were saying "You would need a shotgun to put that cunt down." I think this was because I was investigating and they knew about it. They threatened to shoot me if I didn't keep my mouth shut. That was around the time that the Penrose Inquiry was on. So naturally I'm waiting for them to show up now.

38. The infection caused lots of arguments with my mother as I refused to go to hospital and this made things really tense. I experienced financial problems and the only reason why I was able to keep the flat was because my mum and dad helped me pay my mortgage. My mum is a forgiving person who forgets about things. She was not aware of the full extent of my illness and I was not able to speak about it. My mum feels guilty as the haemophilia originates from her. I had some awkward conversations with her when I did not want to have Factor VIII due to the HIV scare. This has distanced me from my family, even my Mum we hardly speak about my health which is a worry for her but I can't handle because she believes the media lies.

39. Having hepatitis C was also difficult because I had to be open with my partners.

40. I am also aware that my father GRO-C since I started having problems, but my parents protected me from a lot of this because I am still their baby.

41. Becoming infected with hepatitis C had an effect on my education. It meant

that I had to drop out of university in my second year and I still have not finished this. This meant that I could not get a job. I wanted to study biology, but they were not keen on haemophiliacs joining the medical profession. I had to retrain and this would have cost a lot of money and time. This illness prevented me from getting higher education despite being able to.

42. Being infected with hepatitis C also affected a potential career as I have not worked my entire life other than a part-time job as a support worker and volunteering for a little while. This made it harder to get expensive complementary treatments that would have been beneficial for my hepatitis C. I am not a fan of taking drugs and medication after what happened to me.

43. All this had very serious financial implications. My benefits were stopped for no reason in December and the DWP did not let me know. The bank sent a letter threatening to repossess my house and that is when I found out that my benefits had been stopped. I had to start eating by taking food from bins outside the Co-op and other grocery stores. I was close to stealing, but I did not as I managed to find enough food from the bins. My mother told me at the time that I should be able to manage my money better as I was not speaking to her at the time. This was around the year 2011 leading up to 2012. It was at Christmas time. My benefits were eventually reinstated by February 2012. I ended up getting a social worker to help me as I felt so alone. The benefits people eventually realised their mistake and that I actually had not moved house but they had some different address on their system.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

44. I was not offered any counselling or psychological support as a result of becoming infected with hepatitis C. For many years, it was just organised

by the haematology department, but I always had to ask for it and it was never volunteered. For a while, a psychologist from the palliative care cancer unit taught me mindfulness. I felt a little bit guilty to have this psychologist help me as he was involved with helping people deal with end of life issues and I felt like I was depriving them of his assistance. I was sometimes denied access to a psychologist. I do not trust psychiatrists as they only prescribe drugs. Eventually, I realised that mindfulness was not enough because I was seriously psychiatrically ill and scared of drugs in order to treat my condition, as they would have been damaging for my liver. At the time, I thought that I still had hepatitis C, even though quite possibly I did not.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

45. Initially, I was refused payments from the trusts or funds set up to distribute payments as I was told that it was too late due to not finding out about it earlier. No one contacted me and I was not involved in charities due to my mental illness. Initially, I got nothing. It angered me because I was struggling financially. I did not feel happy when I found out that somebody else had got a new fridge and some other things. I wanted to apply for a grant for therapy and mindfulness in order to do a course, but I was denied this as I had not met the deadline. I believe that my social worker at the time, GRO-D was too lazy to sign the papers in time and that was the reason why I did not get anything. I consider this to be discrimination.

46. I received a stage one payment from the Skipton fund. I cannot remember the amount but it must have been around £20,000. I tried not to think about it, as otherwise I would spend the money quite quickly. I tried to spend the money wisely and have fun. I remember spending about £5000 on a car. The rest of the money helped to pay

my debts off and pay my mortgage arrears.

47. I also received a payment from the Scottish Government; I am not sure how much it was as it was a while ago. I am now receiving about £1500 a month from the Scottish Government. Again, I try not to think about it too much or else I will spend it all. I am hoping to save up in order to start a business. In reality increasing costs of my illness are making this difficult.

48. I believe that I found out about the payments from the Skipton fund and the Scottish Government from friends who are infected but nothing from Haemophilia Society or Dr Henry Watson, who also let me know. I think that my Haemophilia Centre should have told me but the Government gagged them.

49. The process of applying for financial assistance from the Skipton Fund was horrible, especially the most recent one. The people who deal with you on the phone are nasty, condescending, evasive, racist and deliberately try to stall you. I have had experiences of them hiding information from me and they are also really rude when they send e-mails in order to try and dissuade people from applying. In order to apply, I had to fill in the forms and send them back.

50. The application process for the payment that I obtained from the Scottish Government, on the other hand, was a pleasure. It was not invasive and it was not a lot of hassle. I did not want to go through it again until there was an official government inquiry in place.

Whereas the application for financial assistance from the Scottish Government was fine, there was a part of it that really upset me. What upset me was that we had to indirectly prove that our need for financial assistance was related to the hepatitis C infection. I had to look up all the symptoms of hepatitis C and I convinced myself that I had them again, such as neurological damage and memory problems. We should not have to prove these things, especially when we were lied to about the hepatitis C in the first place. I have got problems with my memory and problems concentrating now due to my Interferon treatment. I have brain fog and this affects me on a daily basis.

51. My view about the payments that I received is that since I had to prove indirectly that I had got these symptoms due to the infection, I would have hoped for reparation grants that would have repaired the damage done in people's lives. I would have hoped for some kind of compensation in order to help people start businesses, study and other things as many of us are not well enough to go to university or do a 9-to-5 job.

52. I do not think that the grants are sufficient and I believe that there should be grants to help people to get treatment outside the NHS. I also believe that there should be at least one psychiatrist and one psychologist attached to each of the haemophilia centres.

53. When I was born, a treatment for haemophilia had just been invented and everything was new growing up. We were the pioneering children and mothers that got treatment at home and we had to teach the doctors about our experiences. I think that this has a great impact on people's mental health. People also find it abusive when the medical staffs' decisions are questioned. I think that there is something wrong in hospitals right now because it feels as if nurses and doctors are being bullied from both management and government and they transfer that treatment onto their patients

Section 8. Other Issues

54. I was involved in the Penrose inquiry and gave a statement, which caused my health to be worse. I had problems with finalising that statement and ended up leaving chunks missing from it.

55. I have not seen my medical records yet. The practices and hospitals where I received treatment are as follows: Peterhead Community Hospital, Peterhead GP Practice, Parkhead Hospital, Glasgow, Old Aberdeen Medical Practice, Student Health Service at University of Aberdeen (High St), Calsay Seat GP, Forester Hill GP Practices (both), Denburn GP Practice, Cornhill Mental Hospital, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Woodend Hospital.

56. I have not been involved in any court proceedings regarding my infection with hepatitis C. I am registered to become involved in court proceedings in the future, but I want to get this out of the way first.

57. I have been only a little bit involved in campaigning. I have been physically attacked outside pubs due to my campaigning about the infected blood disaster. I have addressed letters to MPs and MSPs and done a lot of research. This has been a solo effort to support what other people have been doing.

58. I have also been volunteering in the committee for Haemophilia Scotland, but had to leave due to conflicting ideas about the campaign within the committee which made my mental health get worse. I only recently started getting involved again with Haemophilia Scotland as I believe that my mental health now makes this possible.

59. I do not wish to remain anonymous for the purposes of this Inquiry and

I wish to include all my complaint letters with my statement, which are indicated below.

- Complaint letter sent in February 2018 to NHS Grampian Feedback Service: **WITN2839010**;
- Email to Kevin Stewart, MSP, dated 26th November 2018: **WITN2839011**; and
- Email to Kevin Stewart, MSP, dated 15th February 2018: **WITN2839012**.

60. There are further things that I would like to add at this point.

61. The first one is that when I had my ankle operation, the nurses were not informed that I had hepatitis C. I had to tell them myself. I think that the medical professional in charge should have made staff aware without me having to mention this and I found that it actually happened quite often.

62. The second thing that I would like to discuss is my diagnosis of bipolar disorder due to Interferon. I was sent to Parkhead Psychiatric Hospital in 2011 after being attacked. People assumed that I was on drugs, even at the psychiatric hospital. I also had two CPNs coming to my house and saying that there was no link between the Interferon and my mental illness. These CPNs were GRO-D, who is a part-time police officer. This will be on my medical notes.

63. At Cornhill Hospital, I was refused my haemophilia treatment and this also happened at Parkhead. My factor treatment was changed to prophylactics while I still had a bleed in my ankle, which caused me a lot of pain and excessive swelling so bad when I was discharged I needed a trainer 3 sizes too big. It was about two weeks before the bleed was treated. When I was in Cornhill, I was not allowed to give

myself Factor VIII as there had to be a doctor present and this was a decision made by the senior nurse, whose name was Andy. At times, I had to wait for the doctor all day.

64. There was one time I was attacked by someone who was in the institution for manslaughter. Following this assault they wouldn't bring my medication to me because there was a bad smell in my room due to not having access to a disabled shower and an appropriate urinal. I was not given the right facilities for my personal hygiene and was shouted abuse for the asking for a seat in the day room on one occasion. I was put in a ward with people accused of killing other people. The police and the courts had to force the staff from Cornhill to treat me.

65. When I was mentally feeling a bit better, I ended up in a forensic rehab and the physiotherapist saw me due to shoulder problems that arose as a result of being manhandled by the police. The name of this physiotherapist was Alex McKenzie and she gave me a workout to do in order to treat my shoulder. However, in the ward I required supervision by a personal trainer in order to be allowed to do this workout. I was told by a member of staff that it was more than his job's worth to let me use weights. I still have problems in my shoulder to this day.

66. The last time I had a bleed in my ankle, due to Cornhill refusing me Factor VIII, I had to wait for my medication. When I was first admitted, there used to be two seats at the treatment room that patients could use. A patient who I had not spoken to before, let me use her seat when I couldn't move. The nurse aggressively told the patient that she did not need to move from her seat. Eventually, all seats were removed from the waiting area. I was continuously refused treatment. I was only in there because my neighbour had attacked me.

67. The staff at Cornhill were given a course on how to deal with haemophilia. I was walking without crutches when I went to that hospital but could barely walk when I came out and this happened every time that I stayed at the psychiatric hospitals.

68. Dr GRO-D refused to take custody of me from the police when no crime had been committed. I also believe that I might have been given a diagnosis for bipolar effective disorder in order to absolve her of the blame for doing nothing as I am not delusional. The right diagnosis would have been reactive biopolar disorder because I do not hear voices and I do not have delusions.

69. Sorry for the delay in finishing this statement, I had to wait over a year for support in doing this.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated Jun 18, 2020