

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3264001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: June 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 make this statement on behalf of my late mother GRO-B: M who was born on the GRO-B and died on GRO-B aged GRO-B as a result of HIV.
3. My sister GRO-B has also produced a witness statement for the Inquiry GRO-B
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late mother'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 Affected

5. I wish to rely on my sister's statement in relation to this section.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I do not know whether my mother was infected with anything other than HIV. I did wonder whether she was infected with Hepatitis C (Hep C) as she had problems with the liver and was diagnosed with liver cancer in or about the mid [GRO-B]. However, she was not diagnosed with Hep C and no doctors ever spoke about it.
7. It took about 7 or 8 years after the blood transfusion for my mother to actually get full blown AIDS. She only found out about the infection about 3 months before she died.

Section 4. Consent

8. I believe that my mother was treated and tested without her knowledge and consent because in the medical notes, there was nothing in there that we had been told of before that she was tested for HIV.
9. I also believe that my mother was treated and tested without being given adequate or full information.
10. I also believe that there is a distinct possibility that my mother was tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

11. I would like to rely on my sister's statement in relation to part of this section.
12. My mother's diagnosis of HIV and subsequent death impacted my family as a whole. The fact that she got full blown AIDS in the end was heart breaking. My brother died at the age of [GRO-B] and I believe that the worry and stress caused by my mother's death probably made it worse for him at the time. My sister was heavily impacted, even more so than me. At the time, my husband and I were still working and so I visited my mother once or twice a fortnight as we were living in [GRO-B] whereas my mother was living in [GRO-B]. However, my sister lived with my mother and cared for her, as she was her

main carer. It was very difficult for my sister as she had GRO-B at the time. She still has not got over our mother's death.

13. There was a stigma attached to the infection back then which made it even more difficult for us. As a result, we had to keep our mother's diagnosis of HIV amongst ourselves. We haven't even told our children although they may have an inkling about it now. They do not know that we are involved in the Inquiry. At the time, my late brother and my sister did not want to take the case further due to the stigma that was attached and the fact that people would find out about our mother's infection. We did write to the local MP at the time, but I cannot remember what response we received.

14. My mother's diagnosis and death caused us to suffer educational effects. At the time, we didn't know what was going to happen to our mother so we were very worried and could not focus at school or give our full attention to our studies.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. I would like to rely on my sister's statement in relation to part of this section.

16. I believe my mother was not given the treatment, care and support she needed. She was treated at GRO-B and I believe she was not treated well there. I suppose that was because she was an older lady, and there was not a lot of treatment available such as antivirals, she was left to deal with it herself.

17. One day, when my husband and I went to visit her in hospital, she had fallen out of her bed and had a black eye as a result. After many arguments with the hospital staff, we got her transferred to a Hospice where she received better care and support.

18. My mother was not offered any counselling or psychological support as a result of what happened.

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19. It was not offered to my sister either who was my mother's main carer at the time and had her own children to look after. I believe that she should have been offered some counselling or psychological.

20. I was not offered any counselling or psychological support but I was able to speak about it with my husband and my late brother. I was able to get things off my chest.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

21. I would like to rely on my sister's statement in relation to part of this section.

22. My sister received a carer's allowance as she was looking after my mother at the time.

23. After my mother died, we received a payment of £43,500 through the 1991 litigation. I started this application on behalf of my mother. We had to sign a waiver that we would not make any future claims. We found out about the HIV litigation through a letter that we received from a firm of solicitors stating that we were entitled to such payment.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

24. I wish to remain anonymous.

25. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated 25.6.19