

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No.: WITN3484001

Exhibits: WITN3484002

Dated: 30th July 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 19th July 2019.

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

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B**. My date of birth is **GRO-B**, 1961. I am a qualified schoolteacher however I am currently not working as I suffer with anxiety and depression.
2. In this statement I intend to speak about my late mother **GRO-B: M** **GRO-B: M** and her contraction of hepatitis C that led to her death in 1972 at the age of 53 years.
3. My mother had 11 children. I am the youngest of the 11. My mother died when I was eleven years old but my memories of her are of a very loving mother who lived for her children. My father died when I was three years old. My mother did not remarry she concentrated on bringing up her

children until her untimely death.

Section 2. How Infected

4. In 1968 my mother was admitted into the Western Infirmary in Glasgow. I was 7, [GRO-B]. She had some gallstones removed. During the operation she had a blood transfusion and received contaminated blood. As a result my mother contracted hepatitis C.

5. My mother's GP was [GRO-B], he practised in the [GRO-B] of Glasgow. I can provide no information about the surgeon that treated my mother. Most of the information I have has come from two of my older sisters. Their names are [GRO-B] when our mother died and [GRO-B] [GRO-B] [GRO-B]

6. I have no idea if my mother was ever told of the risk of being infected when she had the blood transfusion. I can only assume she wasn't as I believe it was an emergency operation.

7. I do not know how my mother found out she had hepatitis C. Prior to her operation my mother was a very fit and healthy woman. After her operation I remember my mum was very unwell. Her health deteriorated until she died in 1972.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I do not believe my mother received any other infections as a result of being given contaminated blood.

Section 4. Consent

9. I do not know if my mother was treated or tested without her knowledge or consent or for the purpose of research.

Section 5. Impact

10. The implications, for my mother, on receiving contaminated blood and contracting hepatitis C cost her life.

11. I remember physically my mother was always tired and lethargic. She was never like that before her operation. I remember she looked jaundiced as the whites of her eyes were yellow, as was her skin.

12. I cannot really comment on my mother's mental state. All I do know is the knowledge that her infection was fatal must have put her under tremendous stress. She knew she would be leaving all her children. That must have put her under enormous strain.

13. I do not believe my mother was given any treatment for the hepatitis C. The impact of losing my mother at such a young age had profound effects on me.

14. I was only eleven when she died. I remember I was only allowed to go and see her once when she was in the Western Infirmary before she died. On the only time I visited her I remember I got into the hospital bed with my mother and was cuddling her. I didn't want to leave her and I became very upset. I remember outside the hospital my older sister **GRO-B** hit me because I had upset my mother. I was not allowed to go and see her again.

15. After my mother died I had to go and live with **GRO-B**. **GRO-B** I had a horrible childhood and was sexually abused by **GRO-B**. I was often neglected and kept off school to clean the house and look after **GRO-B**'s children. Hearing her children call her "mum" greatly upset me as I missed my mother very much, and I was no longer able to say "mum" as I had no one to say it to. I would sit in my bedroom and talk

out aloud to my mum saying things like, "mammy can I have an orange?"
 "Mammy, where is GRO-B?" etc I just had to be able to say
 "mammy"

16. I became a very troubled child and was bullied at school. I attempted
 suicide on a number of occasions.

17. I am aware as an adult that there is a stigma associated with hepatitis
 C. It is associated with sex workers, homosexuals and intravenous drug
 users. I do not remember there being a stigma around my mother's
 illness. As I grew up it was common knowledge in my family that our
 mother had died from hepatitis. My mother was a clean living woman
 she did not drink, smoke or take drugs, her focus and priority were her
 children.

18. I remember the day my mother was rushed into hospital before she died.
 She was taking me to the dentist. It was early morning sometime in 1972.
 We were both walking to the dentist along GRO-B. All
 of a sudden my mother collapsed. A man who was walking past called
 for an ambulance and my mother was taken to the Western Infirmary
 where she died on GRO-B 1972.

19. After my mother's death, I was shipped from one home to another,
 staying with various older siblings. Before my mum died, I was cared for
 by GRO-B GRO-B
 GRO-B
 GRO-B I was then shipped
 to GRO-B's. Then after my mother died, I was sent to GRO-B's.
 GRO-B was a violent drunk, and on Christmas Eve, my sister GRO-B and
 I ran away from GRO-B's by climbing out of a window. He had physically
 hurt GRO-B badly and we were both terrified. We ran to GRO-B's, from
 the frying pan into the fire GRO-B
 GRO-B. In my traumatic childhood, I suffered severe anxiety
 and suicidal tendencies. Even as an adult this is still the case. I attend

GRO-B Resource Centre for mental health therapy on a weekly basis.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

20. I do not know if my mother received counselling or psychological support. I suspect she didn't. Certainly my siblings and I did not receive any psychological support after our mother's death. When I was fifteen I took a massive overdose and was in a coma for two weeks. After I was released from hospital, social workers came to **GRO-B**'s to see how I was doing, but **GRO-B** sent me out to play and so the social workers didn't get to meet with me and they never came back.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

21. My mother did not receive any financial assistance as a result of being given contaminated blood.

22. It was only a few months ago that I heard something on the radio about the Infected Blood Inquiry. It was talking about people being given contaminated blood who died from hepatitis C and HIV. I contacted Thompsons solicitors and told them about my mother's death of hepatitis C.

23. I have received no financial assistance as a result of my mother's death. I am not aware of any schemes or trusts that exist for people who have been infected or affected.

Section 8. Other Issues

24. I have provided Thompsons solicitors with a copy of my mother's death certificate. The sole cause of my mother's death was chronic hepatitis C.

ANONYMOUS

I produce a copy of my mother's death certificate in evidence and refer to it as **WITN3484002**.

25. I wish to remain anonymous in this Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated Jun 11, 2020 _____