

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name:

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1465002

Exhibits: 0

Dated: February 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND 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** with my wife and our **GRO-B**.
2. This is my Second Statement. It should be read in conjunction with my First Statement given to the Inquiry (Witness Number WITN1465001) on 1st December 2018.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records. A medical chronology of the relevant entries in the limited number of records I have been able to access is set out at the end of my First Statement.

Section 2. How infected

4. I have (moderate to severe) Haemophilia A. I have been co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated Factor VIII (FVIII) blood concentrate. I spontaneously cleared HCV many years ago and my HIV viral load is now at undetectable levels.

Section 3. Other Infections

5. I have been informed that I may have been exposed to vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

6. I refer to my First Statement. I was tested for infection without my/my parent's knowledge and consent and I also believe that some of the tests were done for the purpose of research.

Section 5. Impact

7. I refer to my First Statement. Since making that Statement, I have developed a further serious (and ongoing) health issue directly attributable to contaminated blood and HIV. As a result I am now profoundly changed. My mortality is tangible.

8. I was diagnosed with stage 2 mouth cancer with a tumour on my tongue at GRO-B Hospital in September 2019. I had burned my tongue the week before and mentioned to my dentist at the hospital that it wasn't healing. My dentist thought the lesion looked 'nasty' and was concerned enough to send me for testing. A few days later the cancer diagnosis was confirmed. I tried to take the news of the diagnosis in my stride and asked what I thought were the right sort of

questions about the prognosis but my wife, who was with me for the results, fainted from the shock of it.

9. I was admitted to hospital on 8th October 2019 for an operation to resect the tumour and to also remove some of my lymph nodes in order to check that the cancer had not spread there. GRO-B the main surgeon at the hospital, performed the operation with the assistance of his colleagues, a team of doctors with a variety of specialisms. It was a major 8 hour surgery with the skin on my left forearm being used to graft onto my tongue.
10. Mr Fry was clear that HIV 'opens the barn door' to severe illnesses to include cancer and that, as someone now aged 42 and confirmed to have been HIV positive from the age of GRO-B my body was a prime example of a defenceless vehicle for cancer. The consensus of that opinion was shared by the whole team. This is all the more upsetting to me because I am so careful with my health. I do not drink or smoke, I eat well and my CD4 count has been above 1100 for many years.
11. Whilst the operation was considered a success and the cancer had not spread, I was sedated for several days and as I came round the blood vessels in my neck (irritated by the NG tube) ruptured. I had to have emergency surgery of an even longer duration than the first surgery, leaving me with staples in my neck that pinch and pull my neck upward into a large 'U' shape. I lost a litre and a half of blood during these operations, one third of the amount of blood in a human body.
12. When I woke up again I was in ITU and unable to speak. I was on strong pain killers that gave me nasty dreams and hallucinations. Psychologically I was back where I was in the nineties, in a very dark place. This time around it was worse for me because I was terrified. I couldn't close my eyes and sleep through fear. I was scared I was going to die and I couldn't tell anyone my fear because I couldn't speak. I tried to communicate by writing on a white board but could

barely move my arm from the pain in my left forearm (from the graft). When I did manage to write something, I invariably wrote it down wrong leading to confusion for others and frustration for me.

13. At that time I was also convinced that my elderly mother had died and I was overwhelmed with distress and grief. I managed to write 'Mum die' on the white board. The dream/hallucination was so real that I wouldn't accept my mother was alive until they put her on the phone. Ultimately the very strong pain killers were replaced with morphine. That helped with the hallucinations but intensified the pain I was in. The pain in my neck was unbearable and I had to be restrained from causing myself further harm.
14. I spent five weeks in hospital in total (two to three of which were spent in ITU) and I lost 2 stone in weight. I also picked up an infection around the drain to my tracheotomy incision. The worry and strain on my wife, daughter, brother and mother has been immense.
15. The stay in hospital, my ongoing problems and finding out that the cancer is HIV related has really set me back. I am in mental turmoil with it all. My problems are ongoing and I cannot move forward.
16. I have lost my tastebuds and I am in pain eating and speaking. It takes enormous effort for me to concentrate enough to speak and that adds to my fatigue. The massive scar on my neck looks like a big wrinkle, pinching and pulling upwards. My neck is constantly stiff and sore. It is really uncomfortable and is meant to be constantly massaged. I am waiting to find out if I need more surgery. It is really worrying to me.
17. Since being told that I am HIV positive at the age of 16, not a day has gone by when it hasn't been at the forefront of my mind. Since the cancer diagnosis my

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feelings and thoughts have intensified and alongside the physical and mental impact of this catastrophic development.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

18. I am currently having physio on my neck and arm. I am also having speech and language therapy and have the input of a dietician. I do not know how long these resources will continue to be made available to me.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

19. I refer to my First Statement.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

20. I confirm that I do wish to have anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

21. 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

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Dated *8th March*
February 2020