

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1083001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: August 2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

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I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B. I was born on GRO-B 1971 and I live at GRO-B  
GRO-B
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records.
3. I have been co-infected with the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) through contaminated Factor VIII (FVIII) blood products.

#### Section 2. How infected

4. I have severe Haemophilia A. I was treated at the Pendlebury Childrens' Hospital, Manchester under the care of Dr Evans and Dr Stevens. I became co-infected with HBV, HCV and HIV through contaminated FVIII concentrate I was treated with in the early 1980s, specifically 1980 through to 1983.

5. My mother was informed that I was HIV positive by Sister Alex Shaw at a routine clinic appointment. I was asked to sit elsewhere so wasn't involved in the conversation. I was just 13 years old.
6. The information provided to my parents was inadequate in helping them to understand and manage the infection. The news of the positive diagnosis was communicated to my parents through my mother by Sister Shaw as a death sentence to me. We were left to get on with it knowing that I would likely die in a short space of time.
7. No information was given to us about the risk of others also being infected.
8. It subsequently came to light that I was also infected with HBV and HCV through contaminated FVIII concentrate around the same time period ie 1980 through to 1983.
9. No information or advice was provided to me or my parents about any known risks beforehand. We should have been informed of the risk before I was treated with FVIII concentrate.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

10. Some time later I received notification that I had been exposed to the risk of vCJD through the same means.

### **Section 4. Consent**

11. I can confirm that I believe that I was treated and tested without my knowledge and consent and without adequate or full information. As such, I believe that I was treated and tested for the purposes of research.

## **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

12. Being infected with HIV had a devastating impact on my teenage years and thereafter. There was a massive stigma attached to being infected with HIV/AIDS. I was unable to tell anyone and I was scared.
13. Through having HIV treatment I developed lipodystrophy and through having HCV I developed issues with my liver. There were huge obstacles and delays for me in accessing effective HCV clearing treatment for my genotype. The unsuccessful attempts I had at clearing HCV had an adverse effect on my mental and psychological wellbeing. It resulted in me descending into a huge depression/near suicide.
14. Being infected with HIV and HCV has ruined every aspect of my private, family and social life. I was left devastated from the fear and stigma associated with the HIV diagnosis. We, as a family, kept it quiet from everyone. I also had difficulty getting proper dental treatment from the dental hospital.
15. Knowing that I had HIV at such a young age affected my education. I didn't achieve as highly as I could. My earning capacity at work has been less and my potential couldn't be realised.

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

16. As stated, I experienced huge delays in me accessing successful clearing treatment. I finally cleared HCV as recently as 2017.
17. No counselling or psychological support whatsoever has been made available to me.

### Section 7. Financial Assistance

18. I have had some financial assistance from the MacFarlane Trust initially dealt with by my parents. The process is somewhat painful with too much unnecessary bureaucracy/financial evidence required.

### Section 8. Other Issues

19. Dr Stevens GRO-C in Snowdonia. He was a very nice man. I have always wondered if the information he was privy to played a part in his also tragic circumstances.

### Anonymity

20. I wish to remain anonymous. I do not want to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signature: ...

GRO-B

Dated ...

27.08.2020