

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN1313001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: MARCH 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** 1976 and I live at **GRO-B**
GRO-B
2. My father, **GRO-B** (born on **GRO-B** 1945), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products. He died of pneumonia on **GRO-B** 1989, at aged 43
3. My mother has given her own Witness Statement to the Inquiry (Witness Number **GRO-B**).
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected.

5. My father was diagnosed with mild Haemophilia A,
6. My father needed very little treatment. He was treated at the GRO-B
GRO-B at the GRO-B under
the care of GRO-B.
7. On GRO-B my father was involved in a road traffic accident and
was admitted at the GRO-B. He was later
transferred to the GRO-B where he was unconscious for what I understand to
have been about a month. I believe that my father was given Factor VIII
(FVIII) for the first time when he had the road traffic accident and that he was
given quite a lot of it. I was very young (just 6 years old) at the time of the
accident but I remember it very clearly as I was travelling in the car behind my
father's and witnessed the accident. My understanding is that my father was
co-infected with HBV, HCV (known as non A non B Hepatitis at the time) and
HIV when he was treated with FVIII at that time.
8. My father was given FVIII treatment in an emergency situation. I do not
believe that he was provided with any information or advice beforehand about
the risk of infection. My mother was not aware either of any risk to my father
from the treatment.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. After my father died we received a letter advising of the potential risk to him of
vCJD. He was not aware of this prior to his death.

Section 4. Consent

10. I was very young when my father was infected and I do not have the relevant
knowledge as to whether he consented to the blood tests. I am given to

understand that my father was shocked to be told that he had been infected with the viruses. I think it likely that he did not know he was being tested.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. I was just 6 years old when my father had a very serious road traffic accident. I have a poignant memory of the accident as I was following in the car behind. I witnessed the accident as did a number of our family members there when it happened. My father had a broken vertebrae in his neck and his mobility was significantly affected.

12. My understanding is that my father was told that he was infected with HBV and HCV soon after the accident. I did not know very much about it at the time. I just knew that my father became unwell.

13. Given my age, I was very much protected with regards to what was wrong with my father. My understanding at that time was that the accident was the direct cause of my father's health problems. He had acid reflux issues, a very poor appetite and lost a lot of weight.

14. Five or six years after the accident I learned that my father had HIV. I do not remember how I was told. I thought that my mother told me. My mother tells me that my father told me himself but I do not remember that conversation. I may have blanked it out as a coping mechanism. What I remember is a sad and oppressive atmosphere at home.

15. I formed a close relationship with a girl at school and spent a lot of time at her house at weekends and after school. I never told my mother how I felt but in retrospect I think I spent a lot of time with her family because they were so different from mine. Her family were happy. There was fun and laughter in her household. Fun and laughter were missing from my home. There was only sadness. I have two older brothers. The eldest was away at University and the youngest seemed to be out and about doing his own thing. My mother spent her time trying to look after my father and was backwards and

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forwards to the hospital. I told none of my friends including my close school friend that my father had HIV.

16. My father was very depressed and my parents' relationship was strained. My father would do very little except lie on the sofa all day. My father pushed my mother away emotionally because of the infections. My father told me that he had always wanted a girl. He was very loving and affectionate to me even when he was very unwell. We were very close. If we went for a walk, he would always want to hold my hand. I was always given lots and lots of hugs.
17. I went to visit my father in hospital on my thirteenth birthday. I had asked for a cameo ring as a birthday present and that was what I received. I had not appreciated fully just how ill my father was but it sunk in then as I remember thinking that it would be one of the last times I would ever see him. It was absolutely heart-breaking. He then passed about a week after my birthday.
18. I have keenly felt the sadness of my father's loss. He has been missed at every milestone of my life. My mother gave me away at my wedding. I had a small photograph of my father crocheted into my wedding dress.
19. My mother has never been able to move on emotionally and relives everything in her mind to include the conversations she had with doctors at the time. She had a breakdown in 2008 partly due to her keeping everything to herself for 30 years. Out of respect for my mother, I would never divulge to others what has happened to our family. When I overhear others (to include work colleagues) talking about HIV/AIDS and HCV my heart beats wildly in my chest. You can tell by the way people talk that there is still a great deal of ignorance in relation to attitudes and beliefs.
20. I have only ever told just two people about my father's HIV status. The first was my husband. He and I became serious very quickly and I trusted him. He was very accepting. He was a lovely, lovely man. I have only told my best friend very recently.

21. I recently (2016) lost my husband to kidney cancer. He died in the month of GRO-B I have a 6 year old daughter born in the month of GRO-B I too lost my father in the month that I was born GRO-B. My daughter is younger than I was when I lost my father but I know how affected she is in losing a much loved father. The experience of losing my husband is like repeating the nightmare of losing my father. I have been left with an acute fear of illness and of loss. My fear of illness and loss is now transposed to my daughter and I panic at the least ailment she has and have to calm myself down.

22. My father's death has had an impact on us all that never goes away. You try to get on with your life and then it comes back and bites you when you least expect it. My older brother is very, very angry and sees my father's death as nothing short of murder. My younger brother has OCD related to cleanliness, having developed a deep rooted fear of disease. He found out my father had HIV/AIDS when my father shouted it into his face.

23. Throughout the entirety of my teenage and adult life, I have been without a father and my daughter has never known her grandad. This should never have happened.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

24. I do not know about any obstacles and/or difficulties my father would have faced in sourcing treatment, care and/or support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

25. I received a MacFarlane Trust settlement payment in the sum of £13,000. That money was held on trust until my 18th birthday and later helped pay for my wedding. I was supposed to receive a £15,000 settlement, the additional payment of £2,000 being on the proviso that I saw a psychiatrist. That sum of £2,000 was never paid because I did not see the psychiatrist and I do not know, in any event, what happened there. It felt to me that it was blackmail money designed to keep me quiet.

Section 8. Other Issues

26. There are no other issues.

Anonymity

27. I am seeking anonymity and would like my Statement redacted before publication. However I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not wish to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..

GRO-B

Dated

21/3/19