

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN1315001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: May 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 in 1957 and I live in Cheshire at an address known to the Inquiry. I am married with children.
2. I am a mild haemophiliac and I was infected with Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, HIV, Hepatitis C and other pathogens as a result of being treated with Factor VIII (FVIII).

### Section 2. How Infected

3. In the 1980s I attended hospital on numerous occasions with various injuries and was treated with Cryoprecipitate and FVIII. I was under the care of the Haemophilia Centre at the **GRO-B**. I was not advised of any risks with this treatment.

Hepatitis A

4. I cannot remember if I was informed officially that I was infected with Hepatitis A. It was only on receiving some of my medical records a few years ago that showed I had been previously infected.

Hepatitis B

5. I was informed by telephone that I was Hepatitis B positive. I cannot remember if I was informed that I was being tested for Hepatitis B. At another appointment I was informed that my Hepatitis B had cleared and as far as my memory serves I was informed that I would be immune for life.

Hepatitis C

6. In my medical records there is a reference in 1993 requesting my current Hepatitis C status. In 1998 my notes state "should we start hepatitis C treatment?" I was aware of something called Non A Non B Hepatitis and was informed that it would not affect me. I later found out that NANB was Hepatitis C and was informed that I would be a carrier of this virus for life.

HIV

7. In 1985 I was tested for HTLV3 which came back antibody positive but I cannot recall the exact detail of these tests however I do remember also having a LAV test later in 1985. I thought this LAV test was for Leukaemia. It was quite a long time for the results to come through. I was informed by letter in late 1985 that my test results were positive for LAV.

**Section 3. Other Infections**

8. I have been advised that I did not receive any implicated batches regarding vCJD.

**Section 4. Consent**

9. I was never asked for consent before treating me with blood products. I was not informed that there were risks associated with the blood products used to treat me. I would not have proceeded with this treatment had I been informed of the risks involved.

**Section 5. Impact**

10. I suffer from multiple chronic conditions as a result of the infections and its medications. Since being diagnosed with these viruses my mental health has been severely impacted for decades. Since the virus infections it is highly noticeable that my memory is severely impacted.
11. Some of the other related conditions that I continue to suffer from as a result of the viruses and medications are Lipodystrophy, asthma and constant breathlessness/heart palpitations, chronic fatigue, peripheral neuropathy, polyneuropathy, kidney problems, opportunistic infections, regular vision problems, chronic stomach pain, diverticulitis, acid reflux, pruritus, myalgia/arthritis pain, fibromyalgia, vitamin D deficiency.
12. I have been unable to discuss my infections with anyone other than my wife and I have had to be careful how much information I pass on to my children as it is very upsetting for them. I do not wish to interrupt their education or futures. As a result of this I have become quite introvert and now only have a very small circle of family that I keep close to me.

Stigma

13. There is still a lot of stigma surrounding the virus. This is a problem that many people experience when they try to find a consultant.

**Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

14. With regards to my HAART medication, I asked to change my medication and was informed that due to budget restraints I could not change. After continually pursuing this I managed to get the medication changed. Living long term with HIV is not the same as being newly diagnosed and starting treatment immediately. Being infected for decades without HAART has severely damaged my body and immune system whereas a newly infected person has not had prolonged exposure to the virus before treatment. This does not seem to be understood by the NHS.

15. have received extensive counselling over the years but it was not adequate.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

16. I would like to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

17. 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 .....

GRO-B

Dated... 1/5/20 .....