

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1328001

Exhibits: WITN1328002

Dated: December 2018

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 and I live at GRO-B
GRO-B
2. I make this statement in relation to GRO-B: P date of birth GRO-B
GRO-B. He is the father of my child, GRO-B and died on GRO-B
after being infected with Hepatitis C and HIV following treatment with
contaminated blood products. P died from GRO-B
GRO-B There is
now shown to me marked WITN1328002 a copy of his death certificate.
3. GRO-B
GRO-B
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to
P's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with
limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at
the end of this statement.

Section 2. How infected

5. [P] was diagnosed with [GRO:B] He was infected with HIV and Hepatitis from contaminated blood products before we met, so more information regarding how [P] was infected can be seen in [GRO:B] provided to the Inquiry.
6. [P] was infected and informed of his diagnoses before I knew him.

Section 3. Other Infections

7. [P] was warned that he may have also been exposed to vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

8. [P] told me that he did not know or consent to being tested for HIV or Hepatitis C.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

9. [P] and I met when I was [GRO:B] [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]
[GRO:B]
10. I was absolutely terrified. [GRO:B]
[GRO:B] and I thought I was going to die. [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]
[GRO:B] From then on we were able to re-build a friendship.

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11. [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]

12. [GRO:B] but did not work consistently when we were together because of his health problems [GRO:B] which meant that at times we had no money.

13. I was quite naïve going into the relationship and didn't fully understand the impact of living with someone who felt there was a death sentence hanging over them. [P]'s behaviour could be a bit crazy. He lived life in the moment and 'for now' without any real thought for the future.

14. At times it felt like I was playing Russian roulette by having a sexual relationship with someone with HIV. Although we practised safe sex we still worried that something could go wrong and it definitely affected the intimacy between us.

15. I certainly felt the stigma of being in a relationship with someone with HIV. I overheard people questioning why on earth I was putting myself in that situation and had people refuse to share cups with me on other occasions. [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]
[GRO:B]

16. I knew that [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]
However, as he struggled to cope psychologically with his infections, [GRO:B]
[GRO:B] [GRO:B]
[GRO:B] When [GRO:B] he got really emotional afterwards and told me he was worried that he was going to die. He couldn't bear the thought of getting full blown AIDS. There were pictures all over the television of people with AIDS covered in scabs.

17. In [GRO:B] we went to talk to [GRO:B] a counsellor at [GRO:B] regarding [GRO:B]
[GRO:B] She told us [GRO:B]

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GRO:B, but she also said that currently P's health was okay and he wasn't showing symptoms of HIV. GRO:B

GRO:B

18. Although GRO:B gave us some potential options and an overview of P's health, in hindsight this was a very short conversation GRO:B

GRO:B

The whole consultation lasted an hour.

19. GRO:B

GRO:B

20. GRO:B

GRO:B

I therefore couldn't really talk to anyone about it all.

21. GRO:B

GRO:B

This was extremely stressful for both of us and P said that GRO:B

GRO:B

then he wouldn't be able to live with himself.

22. GRO:B who were brilliant throughout my treatment.

23. P was absolutely ecstatic when GRO:B but soon after GRO:B

GRO:B

On the day that GRO:B

he went out and didn't come back. I was devastated and I only realised later that this was because the enormity of the situation and the fact that P now had so much to lose.

24. It was extremely difficult for me trying to cope [GRO:B] whilst [P] was having a complete breakdown. [GRO:B]
[GRO:B] He told me that I didn't know what it was like to try and cope with what he had. [GRO:B]
[GRO:B] He often said that he wouldn't get to see [GRO:B]
25. [P] didn't really talk to anyone about his illness and I'm not sure if anyone truly understood everything that was going on in his head. I believe he felt like his manhood had been taken away because we had to be careful with our sex life because HIV could be transmitted that way.
26. [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]
27. [P] and I told [GRO:B] about his condition when [GRO:B] was [GRO:B] years old because some of our friends with children knew he had HIV and we didn't want [GRO:B] to find out from anyone else. I remember that [P] was really happy after we told [GRO:B] because [GRO:B] didn't treat him any differently and still loved him just the same; this meant so much to him.
28. I always tried to protect [GRO:B] from [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]. When he didn't show up to pick [GRO:B] up for an outing I told [GRO:B] that he was working. I wanted to protect [GRO:B] from it all and help [GRO:B] maintain a relationship with him.
29. It also had a big impact on [GRO:B]
[GRO:B] [GRO:B] was absolutely devastated and also doesn't really talk to anyone about [P]

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30. I think **P** knew the year before he passed away that he was dying. He went from being a real extrovert to not going out as much. **GRO:B**

GRO:B

GRO:B

31. Before **P** died he lost a lot of weight. His skin changed and he didn't look well anymore. He was always fatigued and tired.

32. The day before **GRO:B**

GRO:B

. I could see how frightened he was, but **GRO:B**

GRO:B

GRO:B

GRO:B

GRO:B

It was the worst moment of my life coming back to tell

GRO:B

had passed away.

33. **GRO:B**

GRO:B

34. **P**'s infection has left us all with a deep distrust of the medical profession. I no longer trust them especially with **GRO:B**
GRO:B. If **P** had trusted medical professionals more then he could have received treatment for his infections and been alive for longer.

35. **P** couldn't get insurance so we were never able to get a mortgage together, which meant I always lacked financial security when I was with him. We couldn't plan. I was in debt when **P** passed away. **GRO:B**
GRO:B was growing up as I had no other option.
P's illness affected every strand of our lives.

36. **P** was a lovely, kind man. I feel that he led a tortured life and we were robbed of our happy family through no fault of our own.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

37. I don't believe [P] was ever offered counselling to help him deal with his diagnosis or that he had any real support, especially for his drink and drug problems which I believe were directly caused by his infections.
38. I had no counselling [GRO:B] and I was not offered any counselling when [P] died.
39. [P] and I did meet with the [GRO:B] at one stage but decided that support groups and campaigning wasn't for us.
40. [GRO:B] had some counselling after [P] died but this was just with [GRO:B] who didn't know that he had been infected with HIV and Hepatitis C. [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]
41. Some years ago, [GRO:B] and I received forms from the MacFarlane Trust where we ticked the box saying we would thought counselling should be available and nothing ever came of it.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

42. [P] received a lump sum payment from the MacFarlane Trust but he had to sign a waiver to do so or he was told that he wouldn't receive anything. I think it is an absolute joke that vulnerable people, who didn't have the resources to fight for a better solution, were pressured into signing this waiver; these people had no other option.
43. The MacFarlane Trust were ok but made it difficult to get support. [P] always used to say that people got paid more for someone slagging them off in the press than he had ever been offered after being infected through contaminated blood products.

44. [GRO:B] I received financial assistance from the Skipton Fund after he passed away.

45. After much struggling, [GRO:B] was eventually able to get the MacFarlane Trust to give [GRO:B]
[GRO:B]

46. I think the Trusts and Funds are an absolute insult and that the sums people get offered are completely disgusting. People are palmed off with small payments which are insignificant if you take into account the money that someone like [P] would have made over his life time if he had never been infected.

Section 8. Other Issues

47. We need the truth to come out so nothing like this can happen again. The Government shouldn't be able to get away with this and someone needs to be held accountable. My anger is only increased when I see documents stating that it was cheaper to experiment on haemophiliacs than it was on monkeys.

48. Before he died [P] knew that he had been lied to. He told me that his doctors told him they did not have any way of testing whether the American products were infected. [P] told me that he later found out this wasn't true and that someone, somewhere knew that the American products were infected and that the blood donors who donated the blood were paid. [P] felt [GRO:B] had known more than he let on at the time because he spoke out after he retired.

49. Haemophiliacs should have been given the choice of whether to change to Factor concentrate treatment or stay the old treatment they were previously on.

Anonymity, redaction, disclosure

50. I want to be anonymous and would like the identifying features of my family redacted from my witness statement.

51. I do not wish to give oral evidence at the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

Dated

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Signed.....

GRO:B

Dated

29.1.19.