

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1380001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: March 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. My date of birth is GRO-B. I live at GRO-B, GRO-B. I have a partner and 2 children. I am currently employed.
2. I make this statement in relation to my late husband, GRO-B: H, H junior who was born on the GRO-B and died on the GRO-B as a result of contaminated blood products. I met H when I was 15 and we married when I was 24.
3. GRO-B (GRO-B) and GRO-B (GRO-B) have also produced witness statements for the Inquiry.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late husband'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 Affected**

5. [ H ] had severe haemophilia A and I believe he was diagnosed at a very young age. As a result of his haemophilia, [ H ] required Factor VIII (FVIII) treatment to treat his bleeds.
6. I believe [ H ] was treated with FVIII at the Liverpool Royal Children's hospital. Unfortunately I do not know the name of the treating doctor.
7. I do not know the dates and the period of time over which [ H ] was given infected blood products.
8. I do not know if any information or advice was given to [ H ] or his parents beforehand about the risk of being exposed to infection.
9. As a result of [ H ] being treated with FVIII, he was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C (Hep C). I believe [ H ] was told about the HIV infection when he was about [ GRO-B ] years old. Unfortunately, I do not have any further information in relation to what information he was given about the infection. I therefore wish to relay on [ GRO-B ] statement in this regard.
10. I do not believe that [ H ] was provided with any adequate information to help him understand and manage the infection.
11. I believe that information about the infection should have been provided earlier and it should have clearly been explained to both [ H ] and his parents.
12. I believe at some point [ H ] was told about the risks of others being infected as a result of the infection. We did have a discussion about the risks when we met, but I don't know when he found out.

**Section 3. Other Infections**

13. I do not know if [ H ] received any infections other than HIV and Hep C.

**Section 4. Consent**

14. I wish to rely on  statement in relation to this section.

**Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

15.  was affected massively as a result of the infections. He was depressed and broken. He was waiting and prepared himself to die every day because that what he was told at a young age.

16. I do not know if there were any further medical complications or conditions that resulted from the infection.

17. The last couple of years of  life were a struggle. He had a stroke and couldn't walk or talk. It had only been a year before he fell ill again. I was still with him at the time and I was his main carer. In his final years he lost his appetite and lost a lot of weight.

18. I believe  had treatment for HIV, but I cannot remember the name of it. He didn't really like taking the treatment and I don't believe he took it as it was prescribed. I believe that was a personal choice he made. When he got depression he stopped taking his medication altogether.

19. I do not believe  faced any difficulties or obstacles in accessing the above treatment.

20. As stated above,  suffered from depression. I do not know if the depression was caused by the treatment that he had in relation to HIV.

21. I do not know if the his infected status had an impact on treatment, medical or dental care for any other conditions.

22.  was extremely worried about people finding out that he had HIV. He therefore kept it all to himself. The only people that knew about his infection were his close family members. I made a promise to him that if he died the word 'HIV' would not be on his death certificate. He had a small circle of

friends and I am not sure if he told them about HIV. We didn't have any children together. I had 2 children before we married and [H] raised them with me. We didn't tell the children about [H] infection as we didn't want to worry them.

23. I can't put it into words as to what happened to [H]. It had a massive effect on my life. We were both constantly down and I had to watch him be like that. He was constantly talking about dying and it wasn't nice. I was also dealing with depression as a result of what happened.

24. The stigma that was associated with HIV at the time was horrible and it would have impacted us massively had it got out that [H] had HIV. This was one of reasons why we kept it quiet as we wanted to try and live a normal life.

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

25. I am not sure if [H] received any support in consequence of being infected with HIV.

26. I do not believe that [H] was provided with any counselling or psychological support. I believe it could have helped had he been offered it. I was not offered any counselling or psychological support. Again I believe that it could have helped had it been offered.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

27. I believe that [H] received some money but I do not know the amount he received or from which Trust or Fund.

28. I recall receiving approximately £12,000 from the MacFarlane Trust a few years after [H] passed away. I didn't contact them, they contacted me. I can't remember if I had to fill in any forms. I can't remember if there were any preconditions imposed. However, I found that the MacFarlane Trust were brilliant and I had no problems with them.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

29. I wish to remain anonymous.

30. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-B .....

Dated 3.3.20