

Witness Name: James Sorrie

Statement No: WITN5707001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JAMES SORRIE

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

I James Sorrie, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is James Sorrie. My date of birth is the GRO-C 1959. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am a manager of a community sports hub. I intend to speak about my brother GRO-B who was infected with hepatitis C after receiving a blood transfusion. I will speak about what I came to find out after he passed away and the impact of not knowing.

#### Section 2. How Affected

2. GRO-B was a very happy person and before he became ill he was the life and soul of the party. He was a GRO-B by trade. GRO-B  
GRO-B GRO-B  
GRO-B

3. I did not find out about [GRO-B]'s diagnosis until after he died. He had a blood transfusion in 1980 after an accident at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee which left him with a scar on his stomach. [GRO-B]

[GRO-B]

### Section 3. Other infections

4. [GRO-B]

### Section 4. Consent

5. [GRO-B]

### Section 5. Impact

6. After [GRO-B]'s accident and from then on, he would regularly turn yellow. It was strange, he always had a slightly funny colour to him but I couldn't figure out what was wrong. He moved to Leeds and distanced himself from the family. Everytime we spoke or we saw him he looked unwell, he had purple marks on his body as well, all over his arms and legs. I was always worried about him when I did see him and confused, I couldn't understand what was wrong. Close to his death I saw him and his stomach was swollen, and his legs kept giving way. It was quite shocking to witness.
7. He always seemed to have chronic fatigue and developed diabetes type 2 as an adult. Again he never spoke about how this affected him. He kept the family very much on the fringes and we didn't understand why.
8. The only thing that [GRO-B] did tell me was that he was ill because he was drinking a lot. He knew what was actually going on, that he had hepatitis C, but he actively hid it from me and the family. We all believed that he had cancer.
9. [GRO-B] passed away on the 7th January 2021. I went to Leeds [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] had hepatitis C. [GRO-B] he hadn't wanted us to know because he was scared at what our reaction would have been. His fear was that we would think that he could infect us but that is simply not the case. We are a very close family, we would have understood, we would have supported him.

10. It is horrible to be left with this thought. That we would reject him. We wouldn't have. To think he thought this and kept it from us, is heart breaking. I have 4 brothers and 4 sisters, 2 have passed away now. All of his siblings would have supported him. One of my sister's knew but the rest of us did not. We were all very shocked. We didn't see him over the years and it felt as if he was distancing himself from us.

11. 

GRO-B

12. 

GRO-B

 worked full time as a 

GRO-B

, as far as I know he worked continually throughout his life. 

GRO-B

  

GRO-B

13. 

GRO-B

 created a smoke screen. Every time I asked him if he was ok, he would say he was drinking too much. It left me thinking that he was an alcoholic but that wasn't true. He thought it would be better if everyone thought he was drinking 24 hours a day rather than the world knowing that he had hepatitis C. That was his level of fear and stigma on himself.

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

14. If the proper psychological support had been put in place for 

GRO-B

, we feel he could have brought the news to the family, 100%. We have discussed this and completely believe that family counselling would have greatly helped. I don't think this option was offered to him which isolated him greatly.

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

15. 

GRO-B

16. The one comment I would make is that when I learned of the existence of this fund it was quite a surprise and confusing. He was offered this money, almost like a bribe. The NHS say it is not their fault, they don't admit liability, but they offer money.

17. There is no amount of money that can be enough. Nothing can bring 

GRO-B

 back now.

## **Section 8. Other Issues**

18. This is a statement from someone who never knew about this scandal. Who was kept in the dark, all in the name of fear and stigma. The consequences of this go beyond what I can say here but I want the world to know that we loved him, we would have supported GRO-B no matter what.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

**GRO-C**

Dated 19.07.2021