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Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No.: WITN2297001

Exhibits **WITN2297002-009**

Dated: 20th February 2018

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th November 2018.

I, GRO-B will say as follows:

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B My date of birth is GRO-B 1961 and my address is known to the inquiry. I am currently unemployed and on disability benefits. I intend to speak about receiving UK sourced plasma products in 1990 which has exposed me to the possibility of developing variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). I intend to speak about how this has impacted on my life.
2. I can confirm that I have appointed Thompsons solicitors to be my legal representative. I confirm that the inquiry should send all correspondence regarding me to Thompsons.

Section 2. How Infected

3. I have moderate haemophilia type A. This was discovered when I had an operation on my knee in 1990 and the medical team had difficulties stopping the bleeding.
4. On the 9th May 1990, I was admitted to Bridge of Earn Hospital for a day case procedure for an arthroscopy on my left knee. I was allowed home, but during the night I could not stop my knee from bleeding. I received factor VIII blood products following the operation on my knee. I produce a letter that is in my medical notes relating to this and I refer it as **WITN2297002**. I was allowed home but during the night I could not stop my knee from bleeding.
5. On 10th May 1990 I was referred back to the Bridge of Earn Hospital as my whole leg had swollen up. I remember the police being sent to Ninewells Hospital, Dundee to collect Factor VIII blood products. Although the Factor VIII blood products were collected from Dundee the source of the blood products was Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. There is a letter dated 20th August 1990 that refers to this and I produce this letter in evidence and refer to it as **WITN2297003**. I was moved from the Bridge of Earn Orthopaedic hospital to GRO-B from June to August 1990 where I also received Factor VIII every day.
6. In November/December 1990 a tumour was found by Ninewells Hospital Dundee and removed from within my left tibia back at Bridge of Earn where more Factor VIII was administered.
7. I was under the care of Dr Arthur Espley at the Bridge of Earn.
8. I was given UK sourced Factor VIII blood products and these blood products contained blood from a donor who later went on to develop

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vCJD. As a result I have been exposed to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). I produce a letter in evidence from my medical records referring to my risk of vCJD and refer to it as **WITN2297004**

9. I remember at the time a young registrar by the name of Dr Van Niekerk said to me that I was to receive Factor VIII blood products. Around this time there was a lot of publicity about haemophiliacs getting AIDS through contaminated blood. I said no, I didn't want the factory blood products. He said if I didn't have them I would die. He told me that the blood products had been subjected to gamma rays which killed HIV. There was no mention of vCJD.
10. As a result, I believe I was exposed to vCJD by being given this contaminated blood. I received a letter from Tayside Hospital informing me of my risk. I produce a copy of the letter in evidence and refer to it as **WITN2297005**.
11. Originally, Dr Kerr believed that I was not at risk as there was no record of me receiving UK sourced products. I produce a copy of a form that advises I have not been exposed under **WITN2297006**. However when I informed Dr Kerr that I had undergone an arthroscopy in 1991, and received UK sourced plasma, he realised that I was in fact at risk. I produce a copy of a letter in relation to this in evidence and refer to it as **WITN2297007**. There is a list of batch numbers of Factor VIII that I received in my medical records in relation to this. I produce a copy of the letter in evidence and refer to it as **WITN2297008**.
12. I was not infected with HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), hepatitis B (HPV). In 2004 I received a letter from Dr Ron Kerr who is the haemophilia director at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. The letter said that I was at risk of having vCJD as I had received factor VIII blood products that were contaminated. I went through to see Dr Kerr and he explained to me that I had received blood that was contaminated with vCJD. I

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remember I asked him what that was and he said "do you want to know?" I knew I had the disease but Dr Ron Kerr was very cagey/cautious regarding the information available to him at that time. He told me that the incubation period for vCJD was around 15 years. As soon as it comes out your life expectancy is about six months. It's in a part of the brain they can't operate.

13. Adequate information was provided to me to understand the infection. I knew there was nothing I could do about it and there was no treatment.
14. I think I was told that I was at risk of contracting vCJD at the earliest opportunity.
15. I felt that Dr Ron Kerr didn't know much about vCJD, he could only give me a rough guide as to the incubation period. He did not tell me the symptoms of vCJD, he merely said when the symptoms appeared life expectancy is about six months to a year.
16. He did say to me that the infection could be passed through blood to blood contact.

Section 3. Other Infections

17. I did not receive any infections or infections other than the risk of vCJD as a result of being given infected blood products.

Section 4. Consent

18. I do believe that I was tested without my knowledge or consent and without being given adequate or full information. There is a letter in my medical notes dated 9th June 1995 that states I was tested for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. I didn't know I was being tested for these infections. As a haemophiliac I give blood every year. I don't know what

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they were testing for. I produce a copy of this letter in evidence and identify it as **WITN2297009**.

19. I do not know if my blood was used for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

20. There have been no physical effects of being at risk of having vCJD. The mental effects however have been profound. In 2002 due to pressures at work I became depressed and was off work sick at that time. In 2004 when I was informed that I was at risk to developing the vCJD virus. I sank further into a deep depression. I was constantly anxious and every time I became ill I thought it was the vCJD virus becoming active. I felt I had literally got a death sentence. To know that the virus could become active at any time, and once active I would die within six months has left me depressed and stressed on a permanent basis.
21. There have been no medical complications or conditions that resulted from the risk of me developing vCJD.
22. I did not become aware that I was a haemophiliac until I was 29 years old and I cracked and damaged my tibia when I walked into a tow bar in the workplace. This was in May 1990. From discovering I had haemophilia in 1990 up until 2004, if I knocked myself I would go to Ninewells Hospital for factor VIII blood products. I led a relatively normal life.
23. From 2002 I sank into severe depression and have been unable to work. I was prescribed antidepressants by my doctor. The antidepressants I am on are Quetiapine which is an anti-psychotic drug.

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I had also take Venlafaxine which are antidepressants for anxiety. I am still on these antidepressants.

24. There is no known treatment for vCJD. I was told this by Dr Ron Kerr when he informed me that I had received contaminated blood products.
25. The impact of the risk of being infected with vCJD and the subsequent depression has had a profound impact upon my social and private life. I used to be a very sociable person and enjoyed hobbies such as GRO-B I used to enjoy GRO-B and actually GRO-B or Scotland in the GRO-B GRO-B GRO-B GRO-B GRO-B GRO-B. Because of my depression I have had to give all that up. I very rarely feel able to go out and socialise, such is my depression. I feel sorry for GRO-B my partner as my depression has had a dramatic effect on her as well. She has had to live with my low mood for many years.
26. I am aware that there is a stigma attached to haemophilia. It is associated with HIV and hepatitis C. When I was first informed that I had received contaminated blood there was a lot of publicity around that time, about AIDS also. GRO-B where I live is a small place and I was very conscious not to tell anybody that I was a haemophiliac. I certainly haven't told anyone other than my partner that I have been put at risk of having vCJD.
27. I remember when I was in the Bridge of Earn Hospital in the 1990s a friend of mine told me that he had been asked by someone what was wrong with me. He said to this person that I had a problem with my blood. It spread around GRO-B that I had AIDS and that I was a homosexual.
28. Prior to going off work with depression in 2002 I was a manager at the GRO-B This was GRO-B and I had worked there for 14 years. Although I initially went off with depression due to the pressure

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of the job, when I was informed in 2004 that I had been given contaminated blood products and the possible prognosis compounded my depression. I never returned to work and have not worked since.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

29. In 2002 I was referred by my doctor to [GRO-B] [GRO-B] I saw Dr [GRO-B] who referred me to a psychologist [GRO-B] I would attend to see [GRO-B] once a week. I continue to have appointments with the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] CMHT (Clinical Psychology Department) every three months with the following Psychiatrists, Dr [GRO-B], Dr [GRO-B], Dr [GRO-B], Dr [GRO-B], Dr [GRO-B], Dr [GRO-B] and Dr [GRO-B].

Section 7. Financial Assistance

30. I have never received any financial assistance in relation to me being infected with contaminated blood.

Section 8. Other Issues

31. I wish to remain anonymous in this inquiry.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signe

GRO-B

Dated Jun 16, 2022