

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1634001

Exhibits:0

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 DOB GRO-B and I live at GRO-B  
GRO-B
2. My son GRO-B: S DOB GRO-B died on GRO-B  
after being infected with Hepatitis C and HIV through contaminated blood  
products.
3. GRO-B  
GRO-B
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my  
late son'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. [S] was diagnosed with [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]
6. He was mainly treated at [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] He then moved to [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] where he was treated by [GRO-B]
7. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]
8. When Factor [GRO-B] became available, we were told that it was a miracle and that it would change [S]'s life.
9. When [S] was around [GRO-B], we were called to the hospital and [GRO-B] told that [S] had HIV.
10. I will always remember the way [GRO-B] broke this news to us. He was completely cold whilst doing so. He told us to go away, not tell anybody and just to go and live our lives. [S] was told that he had about 3 years to live but other than this received no real information about the disease.
11. [GRO-B], [S] was also diagnosed with Hepatitis C.

**Section 3. Other Infections.**

12. [S] was also informed that he may have been exposed to vCJD.

**Section 4. Consent.**

13. To my knowledge, [S] never consented to being tested for HIV or Hepatitis C.

14. I was with [S] when he was informed of his HIV diagnosis and it came as a complete shock to him. It was clear that there had been no prior discussions regarding the disease or testing for it.

**Section 5. Impact**

15. At the time of his diagnosis [S] [GRO-B] [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] He simply wanted to get on with his life.

16. [S] was a very happy-go-lucky person and lived his life to the full; however he struggled with the death sentence hanging over his head and the secrecy around his condition. He lived in fear and wasn't able to talk about it. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]

17. This was around the time of the government campaign about AIDS and the social stigma around the disease was terrible. As the link between haemophilia and HIV became more apparent, [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] We also kept it a secret because of the association. At that time if I met someone else who was a haemophiliac I wondered whether they too had been infected with HIV.

18. As a family this was an extremely difficult time. It had a significant affect [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] [GRO-B] found it very difficult to talk about and [S]'s diagnosis destroyed him.

19. I had no one to turn to and no one to talk to because we had been told to keep [S]'s illness a secret. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]

# ANONYMOUS

**GRO-B** At that point I nearly had a break down trying to cope with **S**'s diagnosis **GRO-B**. I spoke to my GP about **S**'s illness and he said "well that's ok, he hasn't got AIDS". I changed my GP immediately because of his lack of sensitivity.

20. **GRO-B** was heartbroken when we had to tell her about his infection **GRO-B** she really looked up to him.

21. **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B**  
**GRO-B** as a result of his haemophilia. He hid a lot from me, I think because he wanted to protect me. He didn't want to accept the fact that he had contracted HIV and I recall him coming home on once occasion and simply telling me he didn't have the disease anymore.

22. **GRO-B** He no longer trusted doctors or any of their recommendations.

23. I worried every time that **S** had a girlfriend. He was a grown man and I could not discuss his personal life with him but I worried about whether he was making sure he and any partner were safe.

24. **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B**

25. **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B**

26. [S] passed away on [GRO-B] following [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]

27. The funeral home didn't allow any of us to see his body and none of us were able to say our last goodbye to [S]. [GRO-B] wanted to take some clothes in to dress him but we were told that was not possible. This was horrible at a time when we just wanted to grieve, and it feels as if [S] was treated terribly in both life and death. Furthermore, we couldn't even complain or shout about it because we had been told to keep his HIV status a secret.

28. It remains extremely difficult not being able to openly talk about [S]'s illness. It isn't like someone having cancer where you can talk about it and people understand. There is still a stigma around HIV which makes this hard.

29. It sounds terrible to say but, in death, I feel like [S] is finally free and doesn't have to suffer and live with the stigma of his disease.

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

30. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]

31. [S] was never offered counselling in relation to his infection and was offered [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]

32. I have also never been offered counselling.

#### Section 7. Financial Assistance

33. [S] received lump sum payments from the MacFarlane Trust and the Skipton Fund.



34. He used some of the MacFarlane Trust money. [GRO-B]  
 [GRO-B] He also  
 bought himself [GRO-B] which was more in line with his 'live for the  
 moment' attitude. [GRO-B]  
 [GRO-B]  
 [GRO-B]

### Section 8. Other Issues

35. [S] was an amazing man. I want to make sure that no one else has to go  
 through what we went through after he passed away. This was [GRO-B]  
 [GRO-B], and I was still refused  
 the right to see my son one final time. Dealing with the death of a loved one is  
 difficult enough and it shouldn't be made harder for people.

36. We wanted to make a complaint about the way his death was dealt with. We  
 felt like reporting it to the papers but our hands were tied – we couldn't do  
 anything without putting [GRO-B] at risk. [GRO-B] had only been told [GRO-B]  
 [GRO-B] and none of her friends knew about it.

37. The Inquiry should make sure that no one else is put through such a  
 harrowing experience.

### Anonymity

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

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

ANONYMOUS

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.....

Dated

ANONYMOUS

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated

27.01.19