

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name:

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1653001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: JULY 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF

GRO-B

GRO-B

will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B and I was born on the GRO-B
GRO-B I live at GRO-B I am recently
GRO-B and I have GRO-B children.
2. I was infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of contaminated blood products.
3. I am aware that my brother, GRO-B: B, has provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry under GRO-B
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records.

Section 2. How infected

5. I suffer with moderate Haemophilia A which diagnosed when I was baby. My mother was a carrier, so they knew it ran in the family.
6. I was treated with Factor VIII from a very young age.
7. My treating hospital has always been the [GRO-B] Hospital [GRO-B] and I was under the care of Professor [GRO-B] and Dr [GRO-B]
8. I believe I was given infected blood products between 1977 and 1983.
9. My mam was sent a letter asking her to go to the Haemophilia Centre for an appointment. It was then that they told her about the problems with the blood.
10. My mam was told that my brother ([B]) and I both had something in our blood for a some time and it was called Non A and Non B Hepatitis (NANB).
11. I do not believe that she was told much about how to manage the infection at the time.
12. I believe that information should have been provided sooner. As soon as they found something wrong in my blood my mother should have been informed.
13. I was not provided with much information about the risks of others being infected but I was told that any partner I have would be at risk of infection.

Section 3. Other Infections

14. On the [GRO-B] I was given treatment for a bleed. On the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] I was informed that the treatment I had received had been contaminated with vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

15. I cannot remember many details, as I was only a child when I was infected. However, I do believe that the reason they brought the infected blood over was to trial it on us.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

16. As a child I just blocked it all out and got used to the name calling. As I got older I turned to alcohol to block it out.

17. I do not recall when I received my first batch of treatment for HCV; however the second treatment started on the GRO-B and finished on the GRO-B

18. I was treated with Harvoni and Ribavirin to clear the virus in GRO-B

19. Prior to treatment I was told to stop drinking alcohol, which I did.

20. I did not suffer from any side effects from the treatment I was given.

21. I do not believe that my infected status had any impact on my medical or dental care for any other conditions.

22. I have always been very lucky to have a close knit family and friends who have supported me throughout everything.

23. I do not like to talk about the stigma of being infected with HCV. Despite this, it does exist and it has impacted me.

24. I lost a very good job on-board a ship as my boss could not afford the insurance to have me aboard.

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25. There was a financial effect on me from being infected as I was unable to work whilst undergoing treatment.

26. I am very lucky as my partner is very understanding. I know that my mother has watched everything that has happened to my brother and I and still blames herself, even now.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

27. Psychological support was offered to me, but I declined it.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

28. I received between £GRO-B and £GRO-B from the Skipton Fund. I do not recall when this was as I still struggle with my memory.

29. I had no problems with applying for the money from the Skipton Fund.

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Anonymity

30. I wish to remain anonymous.

31. I do not wish to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated 08-07-2020.