

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN1779001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: FEBRUARY 2019

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**. I was born on **GRO-B** 1938 and I live at **GRO-B**
GRO-B
2. My husband, **GRO-B: H** (born on **GRO-B** 1937) was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products. He died from liver cancer on **GRO-B**.
3. **GRO-B**
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my husband's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. [H] had mild hemophilia A.
6. [H] was treated at the Truro Haemophilia Centre, The Royal Cornwall (Treliske) Hospital, under the care of Dr Helena Daly and Dr Creagh.
7. He was informed that he had HCV in 1993.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. I do not believe that [H] received any other infection than HCV although he endured laborious HIV testing from 1985 until 1991.

Section 4. Consent

9. [H] was identified as having HCV but did not know that he had been tested for it.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

10. I was 18 years old when I first met [H]. It was at a College dance at the local 'Tech'. He asked me to dance and before the evening was over, he invited me to go out with him the following week.
11. We married in [GRO-B] I was 20. He was 22 and remained very happy until his sudden death in [GRO-B] 2017. After 58 years of happy marriage it is almost impossible to say how much I miss him every minute of every day.
12. [H] was a lovely man, very humorous, very clever and practical and very fond of DIY. He never let haemophilia stop him doing things he wanted to do.

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13. After having an operation for an ulcer on the 1980s at Treliske Hospital, he would have had Factor VIII (FVIII) on several occasions. Several years later, but before 1992 he had minor surgery at Treliske (circumcision) and he had to return because of bleeding and again had FVIII. I think it was during these years he was informed by the hospital that he needed to have tests because he may have been contaminated by HIV. After tests it seemed he wasn't affected by HIV, but no mention whatsoever was made regarding HepC.
14. However, in 1993, he had a bleed and was taken by ambulance to Treliske where he was treated and there was told, very bluntly, by a young Doctor who said 'You do know you've got HepC don't you?' He added, 'You will probably last another 5 years.'
15. [H] and myself were quite devastated and didn't really pass this information on because HepC was considered to be something drug addicts suffered from. After this he did receive regular hospital appointments and they did try one treatment (Interferon) but apart from the fact that the percentage of success in clearing HepC was very small, the treatment made it difficult for him to breathe (he had asthma also), and the treatment also made him feel like a zombie, so he decided to stop it.
16. After several years his liver had cirrhosis which became cancer. His death was due to a bursting of a tumour in his liver and although he was rushed to hospital they could not save him. Just a few weeks beforehand he had been informed by Doctor Stableforth that his last scan had shown his liver wasn't as good as they thought and that he probably had just months to live. However, in the finish, he had just a few short weeks.
17. I have a good family who visit frequently but I still spend many hours on my own, and miss all the love and laughter [H] and I always had together. HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND!

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

18. [H] was not offered counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

19. [H] received Stage 1 and Stage 2 Skipton payments and a regular income as quarterly payments.

Section 8. Other Issues

20. There are no other issues. I reiterate that I have lost my best friend.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

21. I am seeking anonymity and would like my Statement redacted before publication. However I understand this Statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not wish 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

25 March 2019