

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN2735001

Exhibits: WITN 0

Dated: 21 April 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I, **GRO-B** will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. **GRO-B**
GRO-B
GRO-B
2. I make this statement as the **GRO-B** who was infected with HIV Hepatitis B, C and E as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to **GRO-B: P** medical records.
4. **P** has also provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry dated **GRO-B**
GRO-B

Section 2. How Affected

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5. [P] suffers from Haemophilia A classed as mild with a clotting factor of 8%. I understand he was diagnosed in or about 1973 as [P] was a Haemophiliac.
6. I refer to paragraphs 5 to 8 of [P] statement which set out where he was treated, by whom, and the blood products he was treated with.
7. I understand from [P] and [GRO-B] that they were given no information or advice beforehand about there being any risk of being exposed to infection from blood products.
8. I refer to paragraphs 9 to 13 of [P] statement which set out how my [GRO-B] and [P] found out [P] was infected with HIV and what information they were given.
9. I also refer to paragraphs 15 to 18 of [P] statement which sets out how [P] found out that [P] was HCV positive and the information provided.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. I understand from [P] that [P] has received letters from the NHS in 2004 and 2007 saying he was at risk of vCJD.

Section 4. Consent

11. I believe that [P] was treated or tested without [P] knowledge, or consent, and without being adequate or full information, and for the purposes of research for the reasons set out in paragraph 20 of [P] statement.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

12. I was aware [P] was a Haemophiliac but until recently I was unaware of that [P] was HIV and Hepatitis C and E positive.

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13. A few weeks before [P] told me about his infections we were talking about the Inquiry and his friend [GRO-B] who had passed away and in the back of mind I was thinking "It couldn't be [P]" and "maybe it was [GRO-B]". Before I was told about [P] infections I was able to talk about the Inquiry and the contaminated blood scandal to anyone, however once [P] told me [P] was infected I cannot talk to anyone but him about it.
14. When [P] told me about [P] infections the news hit me hard and I was very upset and shocked. After about an hour I started thinking "am I"? "Is my mum"? "Is my [P] ? Infected, so I asked [P] and [P] said "no" and after that I was able to speak to [P] more. Now when I hear people talking about Aid's and making jokes about HIV I just have to walk away as I find it upsetting. I have become very quiet and I am not socialising as much.
15. I was worried about giving this statement as I would have to talk about [GRO-B] [P] infections and some of things [P] has told me, have been upsetting. It upset me to think they were checking to see if [P] was a [GRO-B] I don't want to feel bad because it will upset my [GRO-B] and it's already been so hard on them.
16. I now feel really bad, when we are talking about the tablets [P] has to take and the angry periods [P] had, as there was a time when I wasn't talking to [P] for a couple of weeks and was saying I was leaving home because of the angry periods as I now realise it wasn't [P] fault. Some days [P] could be happy as Larry and some days [P] was so down I would avoid [P]. Since telling me [P] has been a lot better and it seems like telling me has released some of the pressure on [P].
17. As my [GRO-B] has not been told about [P] infections as [GRO-B] is too young I now have to hide things from [GRO-B] I am paranoid about [GRO-B] finding out through me if say I accidentally leave a tab open on my laptop. Recently my [GRO-B]

came in to my bedroom and told me [GRO-B] had an injection at school and it made me feel a bit sick even though it is unrelated it now affects me.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

18. I am unaware if [P] faced any difficulties or obstacles in obtaining treatment, care and support in consequence of being infected.

19. I am also unaware if my parents were offered counselling or psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

20. I am not aware if [P] has received any financial assistance but understand he has dealt with this in paragraphs 49 to 55 of his statement.

Section 8. Other Issues

21. I feel that the government and the NHS are murderers. I believe they knew or should have known the blood products were contaminated. In my eyes sadly no one, particularly the MP's Kenneth Clarke and John Major will go to prison and the blame will be put on a minor civil servant who will only receive a slap on the wrist. It seems like the guilty parties are hoping everyone will be dead before all the questions and issues are resolved.

22. I hope the Inquiry works out for my family as they have been dealing with this since [P] was eleven and in my view is yet another example of the government pushing people to side and not caring.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

23. I wish to be anonymous and do not wish to give oral evidence to the Inquiry

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B

Dated ... 24. 4. 19.