

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3223001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: March 2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

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I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B. I was born on the GRO-B and I live at GRO-B. I live with my partner who I have been with for the past GRO-B years and GRO-B GRO-B.
2. I was infected with HIV by an ex-partner, GRO-B: P who was born on the GRO-B and died on the GRO-B as a result of contaminated blood products. I was with him from GRO-B.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my ex-partner's full medical records.

#### Section 2. How Infected

4. My ex-partner had a severe Haemophilia A. I do not know when he received his first dose of Factor VIII (FVIII) blood products, but I know that he was treated with it for a very long time. His main treating hospital was GRO-B GRO-B which is now called GRO-B.

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5. I do not know when he received infected FVIII blood products. It's possible that he received it in the 1980s sometime.
6. As a result of my ex-partner using FVIII, he was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C (Hep C). I do not know when my ex-partner found out that he had HIV or Hep C.
7. I know he was not given any information or advice beforehand about the risk of infection from FVIII blood products.
8. I do not know what information my ex-partner was given when he found out that he was HIV and Hep C positive. As far as I know he wasn't given adequate information about the infections. I believe that information about the infections should have been given to him much earlier.
9. My ex-partner was certainly not given adequate information about the risks of others being infected as a result of the infections.
10. As a result of my relationship with my ex-partner, I was infected with HIV.
11. In **GRO-B** I was taken into **GRO-B** as I was really poorly. I had lost a lot of weight and my body was shutting down. I was told that I had a **GRO-B**. I was also told that I tested positive for HIV. I believe the doctors told me that the **GRO-B** was as a result of HIV infection. The hospital staff were very helpful and I could not fault the care that was given to me at the time. I got a lot of information about the infection and was given a counsellor at a clinic twice a year.

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**GRO-B**

13. I believe that I was given adequate information about the infection. As stated above, I cannot fault the way the staff at [GRO-B] treated me.

14. I believe I was given information about the risk of others being infected as a result. My family were also given lots of information about the infection and its effects.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

15. I don't believe I have any other infections other than HIV [GRO-B] tested me for Hep C as well, which came back negative.

### **Section 4. Consent**

16. [GRO-B]

### **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

17. In terms of the mental and physical effects of being infected with HIV, I now have anxiety, depression and stress as a result. Alongside this, I also have [GRO-B] which the doctors have said are all as a result of the HIV.

18. [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B]

19. There is definitely still is stigma surrounding the infection and you worry if people know about your situation. My partner's family do not know that I have HIV. I have lived in silence and continue to live like this, which is very difficult.

20. I am not currently working. I do not qualify for disability allowance, but I cannot physically work [GRO-B]  
[GRO-B] I also have chronic fatigue, which has made it very difficult for me to hold down a job.

21. I believe I have had other medical complications that stemmed from the HIV. As stated above, I have been diagnosed with depression. I am not on

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medication for this as I refused to accept it because I did not want other people finding out that I was depressed. I have tried natural remedies, such as exercise, but this has not helped me.

22. I have been on 3 or 4 different medications over the years for HIV. The first set of treatment that I received was terrible. **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B** I am now on a different set of medication for HIV which, so far, is working for me.

23. I did not face any obstacles in getting the above treatments. I don't believe there are treatments out there that should have been made be available to me but weren't. I believe that I get the best treatment that is available to me and works for me.

24. I have had two bad experiences with **GRO-B** because of my infected status. One **GRO-B** told all the staff at the practice that I had HIV and told me they had to sterilise the place after I was treated. Another **GRO-B** took a step back from me and crossed his arms and asked me how I got HIV. I now have a good **GRO-B**

25. The infection has impacted on my social life. **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B** My whole family know and they have always been very supportive. **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B**

26. I believe that there is still a stigma attached to the infection. **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B**

27. The stigma attached to the HIV is definitely the reason I stay quiet about it. I am scared to even go shopping because I am paranoid that people know that I have the infection and I will judged as a result of it.



28. I do get out the house and go to the shops but I do not like to make the trips very long. I mostly use the 'click and collect' service that supermarkets provide.

29. I used to work prior to being diagnosed with HIV but I had to give it up because I became too ill. My occupation at the time was a GRO-B  
This had a massive financial effect on me.

30. It's hard to know what impact my infected status has had on my family members. They have been so supportive towards me. They have educated themselves about the infection and have been really good about it. GRO-B  
GRO-B  
GRO-B

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

31. There were no difficulties or obstacles in obtaining the treatment, care and support, apart from my experiences with the two GRO-B which I have mentioned above.

32. As stated above, I was offered counselling and psychological support. This support is still available for me at GRO-B GRO-B  
GRO-B

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

33. As soon as I was diagnosed, my ex-partner's doctor in GRO-B told me about the financial assistance and he put me in touch with the Macfarlane Trust GRO-B  
GRO-B

34. The payments I currently receive have now increased to £1,850 per month.

35. I also receive a one-off payment of £20,000 from the Trust, when I was GRO-B

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36. The doctors at the hospital assisted me with the financial assistance and therefore I had no obstacles in obtaining it.

37. To many people, the money that I receive may sound like a lot, but when you take into consideration that you have to look after yourself (as you are unable to work), take care of my GRO-B and the household its not enough to live on. I tried to get financial assistance from The Macfarlane Trust but I found it was too much of a hassle when I was trying to get work done to my house. I had to get three quotes beforehand. I also had to get letters from the doctors as well to and provide the Trust with all this information to just be considered for financial assistance.

### **Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

38. I wish to remain anonymous.

39. I do not wish to give oral evidence at the Inquiry.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed..... GRO-B .....

Dated 28 May 2020