

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN2803001

Exhibit: WITN2803002 - WITN2803003

Dated: May 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN WITNESS STATEMENT OF

GRO-B

I, **GRO-B**

will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B**. My date of birth is the **GRO-B** **GRO-B** and I live at **GRO-B**, with my husband, **GRO-B**. I am **GRO-B**'s full-time carer, as he had a massive stroke about **GRO-B** years ago, which has left him with disability and severe visual impairments. Prior to this I was a carer for my mother and then my father. Before I looked after my mum I owned my own **GRO-B** where I was a **GRO-B**. I do not have any children.
2. This impact statement has been drafted in relation to my late mother, **GRO-B: M** **M**, born on the **GRO-B**, who sadly passed away on the **GRO-B** **GRO-B** as a result of contracting Hepatitis C, which she contracted through a contaminated blood transfusion between **GRO-B** **GRO-B**.

3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my mother's full medical records although these have been requested.

Section 2. How affected

4. Both of my parents were born in [GRO-B] and they married in [GRO-B] My dad, [GRO-B] came to [GRO-B], England in [GRO-B] and my mum followed in [GRO-B] when she was [GRO-B] years old. She was a very strong, healthy and vibrant young woman. They were requested, along with many other [GRO-B] nationals, to come to work in England back in the mid-1950s by the government at that time. My mum and dad worked very hard in the [GRO-B] and they bought their first home within [GRO-B] years of moving to England. My mother also worked for a period as a machinist in a lingerie factory. On [GRO-B] my parents left [GRO-B] and moved to [GRO-B] My mum worked as a [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] for a short time after they arrived in [GRO-B]
5. My mum started to become unwell towards the end of [GRO-B] and by the beginning of [GRO-B] she was very poorly with severe anaemia. In the months leading up to this, namely between late [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] my mother thought it was just a bad cold or flu which was taking its time to shift. She therefore did not want to bother the doctor about this. Nevertheless, I took the initiative to make an appointment with [GRO-B] who was our GP at [GRO-B] [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] at the time. He arranged for blood samples to be taken at the surgery by the nurse. It was early morning and I was with my mum whilst this procedure was being undertaken. The blood samples were sent immediately to the lobotomy department at [GRO-B] After thanking the nurse and [GRO-B] I took my poorly mother home and helped make her comfortable in her armchair with her feet up and gave her a cup of tea. I remained at her side to take care of her as I was very worried. She was very weak and did not look well at all.

6. Soon after that we received a phone call from **GRO-B** urging us to take my mother to hospital as soon as possible, as he had just seen her blood test results. My dad drove my mum and I to **GRO-B**. As soon as we arrived, my mum was immediately taken into the blood clinic. Dad and I were with her in the clinic. Mum was seen by **GRO-B** the lady doctor who was in charge. A staff nurse was also present. They quickly worked on her chest. A local anaesthetic was injected into the sternum bone and then a special medical instrument was inserted to test for leukaemia which, thankfully, it was not. My mum was then immediately taken for an urgent blood transfusion. She had quite a lot of blood administered, 7 units over a period of four days from **GRO-B**.
GRO-B This is confirmed in a medical report. She started to feel better after the transfusion. This was the only occasion when my mum was given a blood transfusion.
7. Mum was an in-patient on a specialist ward and my recollection is that she stayed in hospital for about 7 to 10 days. **GRO-B** explained that the anaemia was a result of an enlargement of her spleen which had been rapidly absorbing her red blood cells and wanted to make sure Mum was feeling much better and stronger before being allowed to go home. It was a relief to Dad and I to know that Mum was on the road to recovery. Little did we know what a terrible nightmare we were about to face. I was with my mum when she was admitted into the hospital for this procedure and I visited her everyday over that period of time.
8. I was the main person that the doctors would talk to, as my **M** English was very limited. Whilst she was able to communicate on a daily basis, she struggled with medical terms, so it was easier for me to act as an intermediary between her and the medical staff. Therefore, I am able to state for definite that we were not given any information about the potential risks associated with being given a blood transfusion. All we were told by **M** at the time was that she had to

have the blood transfusion or she would die. It was stated in a very "matter-of-fact" way.

9. My mum was also given steroids, which were meant to shrink her spleen and to cure her anaemia. She had further tests between early GRO-B GRO-B which showed that her spleen was not shrinking and that it was still inflamed, therefore she had a splenectomy operation on the GRO-B. She was kept in hospital for about 2 weeks and as on the previous occasion I visited her every day and acted as an intermediary between her and the medical staff.

10. I remember that some time later we watched a BBC TV Panorama screening called 'Bad Blood'. This said that Factor VIII and blood used for transfusions were contaminated, and that Factor VIII was bought cheaply from America. After this my mum told me that when she was admitted to the hospital to have her blood transfusion she specifically asked a nurse whether the blood was clean. My mother was a very clean and hygienic lady, and she lived a very clean life, so things like this were at the forefront of her mind. The nurse had confirmed to her that it was fine. I was not there with my mum when she asked this. An article from a British Liver Trust newsletter ("Cpositive") regarding that Panorama screening has been exhibited with this statement as WITN2803002. I have underlined the sentence which states '*The virus was officially discovered in 1988. A test to detect the virus in blood was available in 1989 but the Blood Transfusion Service took the decision that testing would be too unreliable and expensive to implement (the first tests gave a significant number of false positives)*'.

11. Between the middle of GRO-B and the beginning of GRO-B my mum developed an itchy skin rash on her lower arms. We did not know what the cause of it was. She was seen by a dermatologist, GRO-B who gave her a number of creams to use on the rash and said for her not to bathe in Radox. This did nothing to alleviate the problem.

12. By [GRO-B] she had started to be seen by an Indian lady doctor at the hospital who was concerned that her skin condition had not improved after such a long time, and she arranged for Hepatitis C tests to be carried out. It was solely due to this doctor's concern that my mum was tested for Hepatitis C. In the end we found out that the rash had nothing to do with Radox, instead it was assessed by a consultant to have been caused by a liver condition, which had developed as a result of the Hepatitis C Virus.
13. I found out about her Hepatitis C in [GRO-B]. I was still running my [GRO-B] at the time and I recall receiving a call there from [GRO-B] on a Thursday saying that he was very sorry but he had received my mum's test results and she was found to be Hepatitis C positive. My immediate reaction to the information was complete shock and panic. I had not expected to hear that. I recall crying and being very confused. I asked the doctor where my mum got it from and he responded that she must have contracted it from the blood transfusions she received in [GRO-B].
14. I recall being puzzled and I told the doctor that I thought that the blood was screened to which he responded '*not necessarily*'. I was not provided with any information regarding the infection – he told me that we would speak at a later date about this - but explained briefly how the symptoms would need to be managed.
15. I was then left to tell my parents about the test results. However, I did not tell them about the diagnosis until a couple of days after I was told. I needed some time to come to terms with it and build up the courage to tell my mum. My [GRO-B] immediate question was what would happen next and how could it be cured.
16. When my mum and I went to see [GRO-B] he gave us the more detailed information about Hepatitis C. He said that there was no cure for it, but an antiviral drug would be coming out shortly. He explained that it would not cure the

illness but it would help to manage the symptoms. GRO-B then referred her to a gastroenterologist, GRO-B at GRO-B

17. We spent the whole day in a side-room in the hospital waiting to be seen by GRO-B

GRO-B When we were finally seen by him he said that he would monitor her to see how she was doing. We were then told about the Interferon treatment which, according to GRO-B, produced side-effects which were worse than the illness itself, and required 2-3 injections in the stomach every day. The doctor said that it was available if my mum wanted it but he deterred us by saying that he would not give it to his own mother. I believe that GRO-B's comments were out of place and we felt like we were left in the dark after that visit. However, my mother still respected his honesty.

18. Eventually, my mum decided not to undergo the interferon treatment. GRO-B had also mentioned that there were other antiviral drugs being clinically tested. However, after she had a stroke in GRO-B she was not fit enough to go on any course of treatment at all.

19. One of the doctors, I do not recall which one, also recommended that I read a book about hepatitis called '*Living with Hepatitis*' by Richard English and Dr Graham Foster. I read it a couple of times, just to make sure that I understood it, and then I explained it to my mum. I have a copy of this book which was first published in 1997. After being given my M diagnosis, I contacted The British Liver Trust for support, which proved to be very helpful and I still have lots of their leaflets, including on Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Liver Cancer, Diet and Liver Disease, Hepatitis Information for General Practitioners; and also various editions of the publications titled Liver Focus, C Positive and Bulletin (The official British Liver Trust newsletter).

20. Around this time I also asked GRO-B if we could try the natural remedy route. He was not particularly keen, but he agreed as long as we promised to consult him beforehand, as some of M prescribed medications were not compatible

with certain natural remedies. I took Mum to a homeopathy and massage clinic. I also took her to a faith healer. I tried everything I could think of.

21. In or around [GRO-B] we instructed Solicitors to act for my mum and we tried to sue the Blood Transfusion Service for the infection; however, our case collapsed in or around [GRO-B]. Our solicitor, who proved to be useless, said that my mum might have been infected in [GRO-B]. I found it offensive, as she never had any blood transfusions in [GRO-B]. She became unwell after the blood transfusions in [GRO-B] and before that she was perfectly healthy. Also, if she had been infected in [GRO-B] I believe that my sister and I would have contracted Hepatitis C as well, as we were born after our parents moved to the UK.

22. In [GRO-B] when my mum was [GRO-B] years old, we were interviewed for a TV news report on Meridian news. The headline of the report was '*Dying mother cheated of justice; they have ruined her life*'. I have a copy of this recording on DVD.

23. I do believe that we should have been told about the possibility of my [M] infection a lot earlier. I do believe that it was known to the doctors that my mum might have been infected prior to [GRO-B]. Instead, my mother was left in the dark until the symptoms became apparent by an itchy rash.

Section 3. Other Infections

24. I am not aware of any other infections which my mum could have contracted as a result of her blood transfusions. However, to the best of my knowledge she was never tested for HIV.

Section 4. Consent

25. I do believe that my mum was treated without her fully informed consent, however, what needs to be taken into consideration is that the transfusions took

place in an emergency situation and there was no time for a lot of information to be provided.

26. I am certain that the only information that was provided was the information mentioned above, as the doctors had to communicate with my mum through me. Whenever any of the medical staff wanted to speak to my mum she would always say that they had to wait for me. However, the blood that was administered to my mum and other people should have been screened. The failure to do this was negligence and a lack of care.

27. I am not aware of my M blood being used for the purpose of research.

Section 5. Impact

28. My mum suffered greatly as a result of her infection, both physically and mentally. Knowledge of it, as well as becoming poorly at the later stage caused her depression and anxiety and she was very frightened. She often remarked that she wished she had the good health that she once had. My mum was a very strong woman.

29. My mum suffered from flu-like symptoms, such as headaches, lethargy and extreme fatigue. On top of those she also had a foggy memory and some memory loss, pins and needles, loss of appetite, malaise, a sore tongue which was rough and red and jaundice in her eyes towards a later stage. These symptoms had caused her a lot of discomfort and distress.

30. She stopped doing all the things that she used to enjoy, as a result of her depression and physical inability. She used to be very passionate about cooking. She used to love to prepare delicious meals for our family gatherings. She always used to chat about cooking with my husband, who used to be a GRO-B She also used to love to do the gardening with my dad but tired very easily due to her

illness. Eventually she lost the interest in both cooking and gardening and stopped them altogether.

31. She also stopped going out and she lost all her confidence. She did not have the desire to be sociable any more. She ended up having a very poor quality of life, as a direct result of her illness.

32. In or around autumn **GRO-B** I noticed that she was not able to swallow properly with an associated choking feeling. She would constantly clear her throat every few minutes and her voice was changing. It started to become quite concerning, so I took her to see a doctor.

33. We had some difficulty getting hold of my **M** GP, **GRO-B**. We eventually managed to be seen by one of his colleagues, but he was less than helpful. We had explained the whole situation to him and asked him to speed up the appointment, but all he said was that it would take between 8 and 12 weeks for a referral to the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department. My father and I agreed that this was too long to wait and we agreed to have my mum seen by a doctor privately. We paid £80 and in late **GRO-B** my mother was seen by an ENT Consultant, **GRO-B** who proved to be a great help. She was prescribed sprays for her throat and also antibiotics, but these medicines didn't clear the condition.

34. **GRO-B** found a lump in her throat and he immediately made a referral for an operation under NHS. In **GRO-B** she had a throat biopsy and **GRO-B** performed the surgery. After the biopsy, the lump was found to be cancerous. On or around **GRO-B** my mum was diagnosed with a low grade malignant lymphoma of the throat. We asked **GRO-B** about the reason for my mum developing this illness, and he informed us that the cancer resulted from Hepatitis C. He said this was because it was most unusual for a person who never smoked or drank alcohol to excess to develop a malignant lymphoma.

35. My mum was in the hospital for a long time after the operation, and it was very upsetting for all of us, as this was also around the time of [GRO-B] [GRO-B] told us that had we not acted so quickly and taken this into our own hands, my mum would have lost her voice permanently.

36. My father and I were very bitter and angry as my mum was required to face chemotherapy through no fault of her own, and the side-effects were awful. It produced a foul metallic bad taste in her mouth which made her feel very nauseous and sick, but thankfully it worked. It was also very traumatic, because my mum had to have an endoscopy every month, whereby she went to [GRO-B] [GRO-B] clinic and she had a camera inserted in her throat via her nostril. This was also traumatic for me, as I attended those appointments with my mum and I used to hold her hand throughout the entire procedure. My mum never complained regardless of the fact that she was in a lot of discomfort, both physically and mentally, the entire time. She was a very strong woman; one of the nurses called her a "*model patient*".

37. I also recall my mother being seen by [GRO-B], who was a haematologist. [GRO-B] [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] worked together on my [M] case, and they were both amazing, and so was [GRO-B]. Unfortunately, the other doctors who attended my mum treated her badly and acted like they were not interested, which was extremely hurtful to us.

38. Some other symptoms of Hepatitis C included inflammation of the liver and breathing difficulties. The jaundice in her eyes caused her a lot of discomfort. Her eye lids were swollen, yellow and bruised. The whites of her eyes were also yellow, and they were dry and itchy. From time to time she had to go on a course of steroids to alleviate these symptoms, particularly the swelling of the eye lids. I recall my mum having a liver biopsy, which consisted of [GRO-B] taking a small piece of my [M] liver for testing. It was a very painful and uncomfortable procedure for her. I believe this was around [GRO-B]. Mum had to stay in hospital over night just in case there was any internal bleeding.

39. I believe that all of the above symptoms caused by the Hepatitis C Virus led to her suffering from **GRO-B** strokes. My mum had a massive stroke on the **GRO-B** **GRO-B** which led to epileptic fits. She had another stroke on the **GRO-B** and a number of smaller strokes after this. We were told that they derived from the Hepatitis C. The last stroke took her speech away completely, which made communicating with her very difficult. It also left her bedbound for **GRO-B** months. Dirty blood was circulating in her veins and arteries.

40. Due to the stigma attached to Hepatitis C, there was only a small circle of people who knew about it, namely close family and a few good friends of hers. Thankfully, her friends proved to be very understanding and respectful. My mother preferred not to talk about it. She would only talk about it with my sister and I, though it still made her frustrated.

41. Due to the stigma, my mum was treated poorly at the hospital. Some of the medical staff made her feel alien. For example, there were always precautions taken all around her and labels attached stating 'Hepatitis C'. What a pity that the same safety measures were not taken when the contaminated blood was imported to England and given to people. This makes me very angry to this day.

42. My mum also developed some complications with her teeth. Some of her teeth were removed and she had dentures. Because of her condition her gums were extremely sore. She went to a dentist who sent her to a hospital, where they made her a gum shield, like one for a boxer. However, my mum found it too embarrassing to wear, so she never wore it. Instead we went to seek private treatment for her, which we had to pay for. Mum suffered a lot with her mouth. For instance, eating became a painful experience as a result of the bony healing and fragments of tooth like needles sticking out of her gums.

43. My mum was also misdiagnosed. She was admitted to hospital with a heart complaint when she did not have any heart complaints. She had a problem with

the thickening of her blood, which was due to Hepatitis C reducing the amount of oxygen in her blood circulation. She was given medication for angina and heart palpitations. She had to stay in the hospital for some time as a result and be injected with blood thinner in her belly. I have found records for anticoagulant appointment dates with [GRO-B] on [GRO-B] and [GRO-B]. This was all compounded by the Hepatitis C virus.

44. She spent several long periods of time in the hospital between [GRO-B] and [GRO-B]. She was the best Mum in the world and she went through hell. She eventually passed away on the [GRO-B] aged [GRO-B] due to liver inflammation and series of strokes, which resulted directly from Hepatitis C.

45. It is fair to say that we have been robbed: my sister and I of our mum, and my dad of his wife. My mum said to me once that although my father was very sympathetic and understanding of her Hepatitis C infection, he was also very angry, as the illness had come between them. They were not able to enjoy themselves and express their love how they used to. This was a great shame as they were still reasonably young and they had a lot more living to do together. Also, my sister's children were robbed of their grandmother, who they loved very dearly.

46. My parents were keen gardeners. They had a large garden where they grew vegetables. They were planning to focus on that when they retired. They were robbed of that opportunity, which I believe is a massive shame, because they had worked so very hard their entire lives. It is also a cause of sadness to me that they did not have the extended holiday in [GRO-B] which they had been planning and looking forward to for a long time.

47. My mum had [GRO-B] grandchildren from my sister [GRO-B] of whom who were very small at the time. Our mum loved them greatly. She wished to continue the loving relationship but always took strict precautions. She was constantly washing her face and hands. The eldest grandson said that he remembers [GRO-B]

GRO-B always wiping her mouth to make sure that there was no saliva, which he did not mind, as he loved her very much. They all loved and respected her very much.

48. My mum was the joy of our family and as a result of her declining health caused by Hepatitis C, we were no longer able to go on holidays and we were restricted in doing the things that we enjoyed doing as a family. We could not make any holiday plans much to my father's anguish.

49. My mum retired from employment before she became unwell with anaemia. Nevertheless, the illness did impact on my parents' finances because of the outlay on visiting clinics and paying for alternative medicines. (I also made contributions towards these expenses.) In addition, they had to turn the heating up higher in the winter due to the illness making my mum feel colder than would otherwise have been the case.

50. My husband **GRO-B** has also been robbed of his time with me. When we found out that my mum was ill, I spent my weekdays at my parents' home, away from **GRO-B**, and he joined us on the weekends. We were not able to enjoy our marriage and each other, because we were away from one another. Thankfully, **GRO-B** was very understanding and respected the fact that my closeness to my mother meant that it couldn't be any other way.

51. However, there was a massive strain put on **GRO-B** when it came to the financial aspects. After I closed my **GRO-B** on **GRO-B** in order to care for my mum **GRO-B** had to take extra jobs on the weekends in order to make up our income, as we still had a mortgage at the time. As mentioned above, we also had a lot of extra expenses to cover relating to my **M** illness, such as costs of purchasing homeopathic medicines and visiting holistic clinics. We tried everything possible to prolong my **M** life and to relieve some of the discomfort that she was going through.

52. We also spent a lot of money on travelling to and from the hospital. In addition to the many visits to the **GRO-B** over a number of years, my mum was also required to attend the **GRO-B** in **GRO-B** on regular basis: every 2 or 3 months between **GRO-B** and **GRO-B**. We could not take public transport as my mum was so unwell, so we had to travel by taxi to **GRO-B** which added to the costs. My dad also contributed a great deal by driving us when he could to the **GRO-B** but he was not up to driving to **GRO-B**.

53. Although my parents' command of the English language was sufficient to understand and communicate at work and with friends, and for day-to-day matters such as shopping, some of the medical terminology was difficult for them to understand. On many occasions I therefore had to close my **GRO-B** premises to attend hospital appointments with her in the capacity of interpreter and to give my mum all the support that she deserved.

54. It was extremely hard for me to see my mum suffer like this. I recall an instance whereby my mum came to visit me in the **GRO-B**. I left her with an **GRO-B** client while I went to the kitchen. I overheard her bursting into tears and saying that she was living for me. It was not like my mum; she was an emotional and open person, but not towards people who she did not know. This made me realise how much she was suffering. I would hug her and tell how much I loved her all the time. We had a very strong bond.

55. It has had a huge impact on me. There has not been a day since she was diagnosed in **M** that I have not thought about it. I have been very angry and depressed ever since my **M** diagnosis with Hepatitis C. I have never been the same since. I feel like a part of me died along with my mum. Also, my sister and I were tested for Hepatitis C in the late **GRO-B**.

56. My career was cut short, as a result of my **M** illness. I closed my **GRO-B** on the **GRO-B** after **GRO-B** years. This was to spend more time with my mum and care for her. After suffering a massive stroke on the

GRO-B as a result of a fall, so I felt the only right thing to do was to be with her all the time. I never re-opened the **GRO-B** again. I had lost interest in **GRO-B**. All I cared about was my dearest mother.

57. Prior to me closing the **GRO-B** my mum had been transferred from the **GRO-B** **GRO-B** to the **GRO-B** in **GRO-B**. It was an awful place which has since closed. In the period between her stroke and closing my **GRO-B** I had only worked part-time. I worked in the mornings and then went to visit my mum in time for lunch so I could feed her, and stayed there with her until about 8:30pm. I did this every day until the **GRO-B**. It was a very difficult period of time for me. My mother was discharged from that awful place on **GRO-B** and from then on I was permanently at my parents' home trying to make sense of everything.

58. My mum was not treated well at **GRO-B**. She had just had a stroke and was therefore still very weak. I particularly recall turning up one day to find her hoisted on the commode, all strung up and tangled. This caused me to scream out loud. The auxiliary nurse I complained to about this didn't seem to think it was a problem. He also laughed when telling me that my mum had tried to brush her hair with a toothbrush, which I found extremely inappropriate, unprofessional and hurtful. However, the physiotherapists were marvellous; after I took my mum home they came to us to perform her physio. She did very well with physio and I used to encourage her all the time.

59. My **M** illness and passing had a great toll on my dad's health. He was relatively fine until my **M** passing on the **GRO-B** but then he went downhill. He started to suffer from **GRO-B** **GRO-B** so I moved in with him to care for him, and **GRO-B** joined us on the weekends. My dad used to work in **GRO-B** where he breathed in a lot of brick dust. He also breathed in a lot of cement during his subsequent career as a **GRO-B**. My dad never smoked tobacco in his life. On the **GRO-B** my dad passed away, aged **GRO-B**.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

60. My mum declined to be treated with Interferon because of the potential side-effects mentioned by GRO-B

61. Neither my mum, nor any of us ever received any counselling, which I believe would have been helpful. I was my M counsellor. I believe that I would also have benefitted from counselling but it was never offered.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

62. My father's friend informed us about the Skipton Fund. His wife was very well-informed as she was a retired GP. Eventually my dad liaised with his friend and soon after that my dad and I filled in an application form with GRO-B who restated it was his opinion that the Hepatitis C had been contracted as a result of the contaminated blood transfusion in GRO-B and I exhibit a copy of the application form, my covering letter dated GRO-B and my mother's death certificate at exhibit WITN2803003.

63. I recall the process being pretty straight forward and I do not recall any specific pre-conditions imposed.

64. Unfortunately, my mum did not see a penny from the Skipton Fund. She passed away in GRO-B and the Fund paid out £20,000 in GRO-B

65. I believe that the Skipton Fund was excellent. It proved to be of great help. My M wish was to be cremated and for her ashes to be taken back to GRO-B. That was also my father's wish for when his time came. He passed away in GRO-B. GRO-B The whole process was very expensive. I had to wait for my dad's ashes to be released, and I then had to go to the GRO-B in London to have the

ashes checked, to make sure that they were not drugs or a bomb. Then I had them stamped to say that they were safe to travel. We were joined by the whole family: [GRO-B] and I, my sister with her children and her husband. We used the money from the Skipton Fund to pay for the [GRO-B] fees, travel and I had also hired a villa in our parents' memory. And a beautiful [GRO-B] cemetery with a photograph of my parents and a lamp which is lit all year round. A truly lovely resting place for them.

Section 8. Other Issues

66. It is a national tragedy that screening of the blood did not occur in the UK until 1991, in spite of the process having been available before my [M] blood transfusion. *'Too unreliable and expensive'* – was a paragraph quoted in the British Liver Trust's journal (exhibited as WITN2803002). I believe that this was an attempt on the part of the government (the Health Service) to economise. A false economy indeed.

67. We, as a family, were extremely upset with the fact that my mother had to go through all of this due to no fault of her own. She had never smoked and she had never drunk alcohol in excess. My father said that they should have stayed in [GRO-B]

68. I find it absolutely despicable and the result was and still is ruining the lives of innocent people. The people responsible for the terrible tragedies that they caused should bear the responsibility for what they have done.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

69. I confirm that I do wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

70. I do not wish to be called to give oral evidence. I would have been prepared to do so if I was not a full-time carer for my husband.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated.....

29th May 2019