

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN2945001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 2 April 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

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

Section 1. Introduction

1.

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2. I make this statement as the **GRO-B** **GRO-B** and who was infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood products and **GRO-B**. I was only aged 10.
3. This statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.
4.

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Section 2. How Affected

5. My father had Haemophilia A classed as severe.
6. I believe my father was treated at Manchester Royal Infirmary, ("MRI") Manchester where he received Factor VIII contaminated blood products and whole blood transfusions throughout his life up until his death at the age of 37.
7. My father was very secretive and I believe he did not tell anybody about his infections. He kept a lot of information to himself and so I do not know how my father found out he had been infected. He did not relay any information to our family at that time. I do not know whether my father was advised as to the risks of infection from receiving Factor VIII or whole blood transfusions.

Section 3. Other Infections.

8. I do not know whether my father was exposed to the risk of vCJD or any other infections as a result of receiving contaminated blood and blood products.

Section 4. Consent.

9. I do not know if my father was treated and tested without his knowledge or consent to do so, or without being supplied with full or adequate information, or for research.

Section 5. Impact

10. I am aware from my mother that, my father had a lot of psychological problems and he was unable to deal with the implications of his infections.
11. My father kept his infections a secret. He left us when I was aged about 2 or 3 and started a new family, who also did not know about his infections. His wife did not find out that my father was infected until after his death.

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12. My mother recalls that my father started acting strangely in or about early **GRO-B** and in retrospect she believes that this was as a result of his knowledge that he had been infected with both HIV and Hepatitis C. When he left us shortly after, she was completely devastated and was in shock.
13. My mother recalls that she received letters from the MRI, as my father had not provided them with any forwarding address. The letters were urgent in nature and stated that the doctors needed to speak with him urgently about the blood products which he had been treated with. My mother told me that she told my father about these letters but he ignored them. At this time, we still did not know about his infections and he had still not told us. In retrospect, we both believe he might have been in denial about everything and tried to block it out from his life by heavy drinking. In hindsight, she believes that he knew he had AIDS which terrified him. It must have been a terrible way for him to live.
14. Although he left us and began a new family, he continued to see my step-brother and I. Due to my age at the time of his infections, I cannot comment about his physical health. All that mattered to me at the time was that my father visited us. I can remember him taking us out for activities. He used to take us to see his new family, he had other children with his new wife and we used to play with them. However, my mother recalls that he had a persistent cough, suffered with chest infections, pneumonia, lesions, weight loss and he had a very low immune system.
15. I recollect towards the end of his life, and this would have been approximately 6 months before his death, he stopped turning up to see my step brother and I and this remains etched in my memory. At the time, I did not know the reason was my father's ill-health.
16. I found out from my maternal grandmother ("Nanna") that my father passed away in **GRO-B**. She had seen an **GRO-B** **GRO-B** **GRO-B** which covered the inquest into his death.

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17. My step-brother and I were devastated and in shock as aged only 10 and 11 we had not had a chance to say goodbye to our father. We did not get an opportunity to go to his funeral or grieve.
18. Following this, in or around 1994, my mother was advised by a doctor whom she saw at the hospital where my father died to get tested for HIV which thankfully was negative; which meant that I was also negative.
19. At the time, there was a horrendous stigma about HIV and therefore apart from my aunt and Nanna; my mother kept it to herself. She could not speak to anybody else about what had happened. When I found out why my father had passed away, I also kept it a secret.
20. I was young, so I used to keeping a lot of things closed in. I used to get into trouble at school, I believe as a result of growing up without my father. Ultimately, my behaviour such as not listening to anybody and getting into fights, ultimately resulted in me being expelled from school. This was all due to the anger I kept inside of me about growing up without my father and being unable to say goodbye when he died.
21. My father's death impacted on my mother enormously. She had to deal with a lot on her own; she brought up two children and she found the news of my father's death very difficult to process. To the best of my recollection, we experienced no stigma, or alternatively my mother did a great job shielding us from it.
22. I am informed by my mother that my father could never hold a job down due to his fatigue and exhaustion. He used to do a lot of decorating for our family and friends but could never work on a full-time basis. There has been a long term financial effect on my life as a result of my father's passing. I did not finish school as a result of growing up without a father which ultimately impacted on my earning ability. I had to build myself up and ended up working in the construction industry and being self-employed. Had I stayed in school

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and received further education, I believe I would have had more opportunities throughout my life.

23. My father's death and the circumstances made me quite negative and resulted in me having a negative outlook on life. I consistently struggle with a lack of motivation. At present I cannot quantify the long-term financial effect of the loss of my father, has had on my life. Also I did not have the opportunity to find out what my life could have been had he still been alive.

24. Even today, my close family always talk about him. My whole family loved him. We were all very close so when he left, none of us could understand it. Now we believe we understand why.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

25. I do not know whether my father faced obstacles in receiving treatment.

26. I was not offered counselling or psychological support as result of my father's infections or after my father passed away. I was left to my own devices and the after-math was for my mother to deal with.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

27. I think my father's wife received a payment of approximately £60,000.00 after he passed away. I do not know from whom.

28. My mother did not receive any financial support or compensation and had to fight for £2,000.00 on mine and my step brother's behalf.

Section 8. Other Issues

29. I would like somebody to be held accountable. Somebody killed my father and has got away with murder.

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30. I feel very angry and annoyed, this inquiry has brought back very difficult old memories. Hopefully in the long run, it will be worth it if justice is done.

31. It is really sad to think about all of the people who have been affected by this awful tragedy.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

32. I would like to be anonymous. I do not wish to give oral evidence to this inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated.....

2-4-19