

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3512001

Exhibits: WITN3512002

Dated: August 2019

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 am married and live at GRO-B  
GRO-B. I was born on GRO-B.
2. I make this statement in relation to my father GRO-B: F who was born on GRO-B  
GRO-B 1923 and died GRO-B 1975. I have two siblings; GRO-B who was  
born on GRO-B GRO-C and GRO-B who was born on GRO-B GRO-C. I understand  
that GRO-C.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's  
medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant  
entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

**Section 2. How Affected**

4. My father became ill in the early 1970s. He was taken to Hammersmith Hospital (HH) and  
received all his treatment there. I believe he had an illness to do with his blood count and

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required blood transfusions and blood products. I cannot be specific with regard to treatment he received.

5. The blood transfusions would make him feel better for a few days then his health would deteriorate and he would be taken back to HH for further transfusion.
6. We lost count of the amount of blood that was transfused and I wonder whether the medical staff were fully aware of his illness.
7. It was such an unusual case for the medical staff that he agreed to attend the lecture theatre on the stage for all the doctors to discuss his condition. It was very embarrassing for him. At the time we did not know what his condition was but he continually had blood tests and transfusions.
8. One day I was told by my mother and father that Dr Gordon Smith at the HH had told them that a blood product which had been obtained from the USA and had been given to my father was infected in some way. I was never told what my father had been infected with but seeing how he died and the way in which died I believe he died from an AIDS related illness. Dr Smith said that there was nothing they could do to cure him.

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

9. I am not aware that he had any other infections.

### **Section 4. Consent.**

10. My father did not tell me that he believed his blood had been tested without his consent and therefore I am unable to state specifically whether he consented or not. However, I do know that he wanted to help the doctors to find out how and why he was in the condition he was in and that is why he agreed to appearing in the lecture theatre for discussion.

**Section 5. Impact**

11. I recently applied to Hammersmith Hospital for my father's medical notes but all they produced were little scraps of paper that had been photocopied. These appear to be blood requests from 1974 with details of batch numbers. I feel that the scraps of paper must have come from a file but I have been sent nothing else. It seems very strange to me that there appear to be neither consultants' notes nor any other notes.
12. Prior to my father's death he had instructed a firm of solicitors in **GRO-C** to try and get his medical records knowing that he had received infected blood. The solicitors failed to get them and in fact were useless.
13. I may be wrong but I do not believe that my father was told what infection he had been given. After seeing things in the press and the adverts on television I put two and two together and looking back at the way my father died I believe he was infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and died from AIDS. The news said that blood products had come from blood from infected American prisoners; this is where Dr Smith had said his treatment had come from.
14. My father was an HGV driver. He used to be a healthy and fit strong man and whilst driving lorries would also be responsible for loading and unloading. After he became ill he carried on working for a while but thereafter was no longer able to continue with his work. He lost around two thirds of his body weight and became very weak.
15. My son **GRO-B** was born on **GRO-B** 1974. My father only held him once or twice at the most. When **GRO-B** was about 3 or 4 months old we took him to see Dad in hospital. My Dad said that he would not hold **GRO-B** as he did not know what he had been infected with and did not want to pass on to his grandson. I remember at the time that it upset my wife.
16. When Dad was in hospital I went to see him regularly; every other day. I would finish work in **GRO-C** and then pick my Mum up from home and drive to the HH; a trip which would take 1 hour 40 minutes each way. I found this very difficult and tiring and didn't really see my own family at this time.

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17. My father became a frail old man even though he was only 50 or so years old; he looked like an 80 year old skeletal man. He was not able to do anything for himself. My mum became his full time carer.
18. I cannot recall how long he was in hospital for at the end of his life. He was put into a separate room during his last week. When he died my Mum told the hospital that she did not want a post mortem to be carried out. However, they went ahead and did it anyway but we were not informed of the results. This really upset Mum at the time.
19. Mum wasn't with it for a long time after Dad's death. She neglected her health; I believe because of her mistrust for the NHS. She got glaucoma in one eye and got cancer but she would not go for treatment. Mum died when she was 71 or 72.
20. I was knocked for six when Dad died although we knew it was coming as he was so frail. At the time I employed approximately 20 people one of whom was an engineer who got AIDS and died. At the time he looked and had the same symptoms.
21. I had to carry on and just got on with life; I had no counselling. I became a taxi for Mum as she was unable to drive. My brother was living at home with Mum but was not old enough to have a driving license.
22. I attach as Exhibit WITN3512002 a copy of my father's death certificate which cites the cause of death as Myelofibrosis and bronchopneumonia. I know the latter is one of the conditions associated with AIDS.

### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

23. As I do not know what my father had been infected with I cannot say whether he was given the care or support that he required.

**Section 7. Financial Assistance**

24. As far as I am aware my Mum did not receive any financial compensation

**Section 8. Other Issues**

25. I would like to see the people who caused this brought to book but I believe by that time a number of those people will have died in any event.

**Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

26. I would wish to remain anonymous. I do not want to give evidence to the Inquiry. I understand that my statement will be read and published by the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

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GRO-B

Dated.....2/8/19.....