

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3970001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: February 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B I live at GRO-B
GRO-B I was born on the GRO-B I married my husband, GRO-B
in GRO-B and we have two sons. The eldest is GRO-B: S and our
younger is GRO-B
2. I make this witness statement in relation to S who was born on the GRO-B
GRO-B S ('WITN GRO-B') and GRO-B ('WITN GRO-B') have
provided witness statements to the Inquiry. I agree with both their statements.
3. I went to Teacher Training College and left with a Certificate in Education from
the University of GRO-B I began teaching in GRO-B that same
year and after a probationary year was made a full-time permanent member
of staff.
4. When S was born I decided not to return to teaching for a while and
became a full-time Mum. When S was GRO-B years old I started an GRO-B
GRO-B degree in the hope that I would learn more about haemophilia
and achieved a degree in GRO-B

5. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to [S]'s full 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

6. I wish to rely on [S] and my husband's statements for part of this section.
7. [S] was always a very contented baby he slept well from day one and rarely woke during the night. He grew into childhood equally contented and had a good relationship with both myself and my husband. He had a natural curiosity and was an early walker at ten months. He learnt easily and was reading before he started school. Despite many visits to the hospital for treatment for bleeds he was a happy child with a wide circle of friends. However during his teenage years he became subdued and lethargic. His relationship with his father went downhill rapidly and he was diagnosed with depression when he was about [GRO-B] years old.
8. When [S] was about [GRO-B] or [GRO-B] old I was travelling back and to from the G.P with him. He had bumped his mouth and there was a slight bleed. This did not get any better and my husband and I went to the local hospital and from there [S] and myself were sent in an ambulance to [GRO-B] [GRO-B] while my husband followed in the car. From here we were transferred to the [GRO-B]
- [S] was diagnosed with Haemophilia B.
 - He was given a blood transfusion and also plasma concentrate.
 - When we returned home [S] was under the care of doctors and nurses at [GRO-B] and the [GRO-B] [GRO-B]
 - Either at his first or subsequent treatments in the years to follow he was infected with both Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. We were informed of him having had Hepatitis B after he had it and also cleared it.

- e. I believe the infection with Hepatitis C occurred in his late teens or early twenties, but [S] didn't tell us until in or about late 2018/early 2019 that he was also infected with Hepatitis C.

Section 3. Other infections

9. As stated above [S] told my husband and I that he had also had Hepatitis C and Glandular Fever. Nobody had ever told us of either infection, I now wonder whether he had Glandular Fever at aged [GRO-B] and it was misdiagnosed as depression.

10. I rang [GRO-B] at some time in [GRO-B]. On the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] I received a letter from him answering my query. By this time I had graduated from the [GRO-B] and joined the Institute of [GRO-B] as an associate member where I became aware of the risks of HIV infection and needed to know if [S]'s immune system had been compromised. [S] had in fact not been tested at this time. We received another letter, a year later, dated the [GRO-B] telling us that [S] had now been tested and he was negative for HTLV III (the AIDS virus). This was followed by another exact copy of the above letter but it was dated the [GRO-B]

Section 4. Consent

11. When [S] was a child we gave consent for treatment when it was necessary to stop a bleed.
12. We were not told initially of the risk of infections that were associated with clotting products.
13. Once we knew the possible risks of infections we told doctors that unless absolutely necessary we were not happy to let [S] have too many treatments. This led to him not being able to play football or any other contact sports. We took him swimming instead to give an outlet to his need to be active and encouraged him to compete in sports days at school, which he thoroughly enjoyed because he excelled at running.

14. As an adult [S] decided when to actively give himself treatment. Now that he uses recombinant Factor IX he is more likely to use it prophylactically.

Section 5. Impact

15. The mental effects were enormous on [S] His main worry throughout his teenage years was whether he would be infected with HIV, but he internalised this. My husband and I never discussed this with him, he found out about the possibility himself and worried about it.

16. From my husband's statement it can be seen that we really had to battle to get heat treated Factor IX. Please refer to his statement in this regard.

17 [S] always felt different but when he discovered the nature of possible infections he avoided close friendships.

18. I am so glad that we kept the fact that [S] had haemophilia to ourselves. I remember having a conversation with a close friend I had told about haemophilia. This was when HIV was all over the news. She asked me what I would do if people knew that [S] was a haemophiliac and could get HIV. I said that I would not tell them to protect him from gossip such was the stigma.

19. Despite [S] being very bright and finding learning relatively easy all the worry he had come to bear had a devastating effect during the sixth form. He couldn't concentrate for most of the time and did really badly at A-levels. This made him feel like a failure and even when he eventually succeeded in getting three A-levels he had to go through a clearing process to find a place at University. His self-esteem was really low. Despite all this and changing courses from economics to psychology part way through he ended up with an honours degree (2:1) and ultimately further study enabled him to achieve an [GRO-B] and now works as a [GRO-B]

20. I went back to teaching when [S] was [GRO-B] but only on a supply basis. This meant temporary work filling in for absences in various schools. This

enabled me to work a day or two at a time or turn down any job if it did not fit in with hospital visits.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

21. As [S] had cleared both Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C himself before we had knowledge of either infection no treatment was given. He was given psychological support for depression but no one linked this with the fact that he was worried about infection. We eventually paid £11,000 to have him treated privately where he was given intensive CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) which did work and allowed him to get his life back on track.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

22. I wish to rely on [S] and my husband's statements in relation to this section.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

23. I wish to apply for anonymity and a redacted version of this statement for the purpose of publishing and disclosure as part of the Inquiry.

24. I do not wish to be called to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Signed.....

GRO-B

GRO-B

Dated.....

18/02/2020