

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN4018001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: March 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** and I was born on the **GRO-B** I live at **GRO-B** with my wife **GRO-B** I am retired and used to work as a **GRO-B** **GRO-B**
2. I make this statement in relation to my son-in-law, **GRO-B: S** who married my daughter, **GRO-B** He was infected with Hepatitis A, B, C (Hep A, Hep B, Hep C) and HIV after being treated with contaminated blood products.
3. I am aware that **S** has also provided a statement to the Inquiry, **GRO-B** My wife has also provided a statement to the Inquiry, **GRO-B**
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to **S** full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. I wish to rely on part of [S] statement in relation to this section.
6. [S] married [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] I have known him since [GRO-B] Before he married our daughter he informed me of his infections relating to contaminated blood. This was quite a shock to me and I was very concerned about how the infections would affect [GRO-B] regarding her health and what the future held for the two of them. I was obviously also concerned [S] future well-being.
7. [S] suffers from Severe Haemophilia A. I believe he was diagnosed at a very young age. I believe that there was no history of Haemophilia in his family, so I am sure it came as a huge shock to all of them when he was diagnosed.
8. [S] was treated with Factor VIII (FVIII) from a very young age, and he received treatment at the Haemophilia Unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) up until he was 18 years old. From the age of 18, I believe his care was transferred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham (QEH).
9. Unfortunately, I do not know if any information or advice was provided to [S] or his parents beforehand about the risk of being exposed to infection. Please refer to [S] statement in this regard.
10. As a result of unscreened treatment for [S] haemophilia he was infected with Hep A, B, C and HIV.
11. I wish to rely on [S] statement in relation to what and how information was provided about the infection, if adequate information was provided to understand and manage the infection, if information should have been provided earlier and if any information about the risks of others being infected was provided.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. Since [S] has been infected with HIV and Hepatitis he has had pneumonia (approximately [GRO-B] years ago) and testicular cancer (approximately [GRO-B] years ago). On numerous occasions he has had coughs and chest infections.

13. I also believe that [S] has ongoing liver problems that are detrimental to his health.

14. Please refer to [S] statement for further information in relation to this section.

Section 4. Consent

15. As far as I understand, [S] parents knew when he was very young that he had become infected, but there was a delay in telling him about the infections.

16. Please refer to [S] statement for further information in relation to this section.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

17. I wish to rely on part of [S] statement in relation to this section.

18. I recall that after approximately [GRO-B] months of [S] and [GRO-B] getting to know each other it was obvious that both of them were attracted to one another and were becoming an item. It was whilst on a [GRO-B] that we were told about [S] infections. We already knew about his haemophilia.

19. I was obviously shocked when we were told and thought about the future implications. Namely, would our daughter contract either or both infections that [S] had? Would it affect their future together? What if they got married or formed a partnership together and wanted children?. All these thoughts crossed my mind at the time.

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20. [S] takes a multitude of tablets to keep him reasonably well. He constantly has the fear of what will happen in the future but takes his treatment and regularly visits QEH seriously. He is a positive person but knows that all of his treatment regarding HIV and Hepatitis could have been avoided if the contaminated clotting agent to treat haemophilia had not been given him all those years ago. He is grateful that at present the HIV and Hepatitis are under control. He also realises that many other people have not been as fortunate as himself. However it is a constant reminder to him that he could relapse and become very ill if he didn't take his medication regularly and visit the QEH. Many people who had been given contaminated blood products have died. [S] doesn't want to become another one.
21. [S] does not broadcast to his friends or family members how he has been affected by contaminated blood products. Many people only know that he has Haemophilia. Only very close family know about what happened to [S]
22. [S] feels there is still a bad stigma attached to contaminated blood treatment and HIV and Hepatitis.
23. I believe that [S] and many other victims were and have been dealt a very bitter blow when prescribed contaminated FVIII clotting agent to treat haemophilia many years ago.
24. Whenever [S] is unwell due to his haemophilia/infections or if he had hospital appointments during the weekdays we help look after our [GRO-B] [GRO-B] It concerns/worries me regarding [S] health and the affect it has on him.
25. We respect [S] wishes to keep his secrecy of the infections.
26. When our son married last year, his now wife was told about [S] and the contaminated blood products, upon which he was very upset. Our son knew previously about [S] health problems, he also respected the fact that [S] did not want others to know about it.

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27. As I have known since I can only relate to his problems relating to his work and the affect the infections has had on his career. It is only since has worked for his father's business that has allowed him to have time off work when he is poorly or for the many hospital and doctors appointments he has had to attend over the years. I am certain other employers would not have been as generous to allow him time off work for illnesses/appointments and/or would they have allowed him to work part-time or flexy time. Due to his mobility limitations, his role in the business is mostly clerical (i.e account, wages, general advice and health and safety assistance).

28. My wife and I help with minding the children if and when is at work or has medical appointments.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

29. As far as I am aware, has never experienced difficulties regarding treatment. However, the whole saga of "bad blood" investigation should have been cleaned up by now and I truly don't know how has managed to keep so positive over all those years and what thoughts have gone through his mind. Our whole family campaigned for the fully screened treatment to be available to hemophiliacs. That was denied to him at one stage, because the doctor stated "that he had already been infected with HIV and Hepatitis".

30. Counselling has not been required by me and I don't know whether it has been offered to .

Section 7. Financial Assistance

31. I wish to rely on statement in relation to this section.

32. I believe that received some financial support from various Trusts and Funds that were set up, but I have no knowledge of the amount that he received.

33. I have not received any financial assistance from any of the Trust or Funds that were set up.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

34. I wish to remain anonymous.

35. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.. GRO-B

Dated 12/03/2020