

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name:

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN3672001

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** I was born on **GRO-B** and I live at **GRO-B**
GRO-B I work in a café and I have one son.
2. My father, **GRO-B** (born on **GRO-B**) was co-infected with the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) from contaminated Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate. His health deteriorated, advancing to AIDS Related Complex (ARC) and he died on **GRO-B**, aged **GRO-B**
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.

Section 2. How affected

4. My father had severe Haemophilia A. He was treated at the GRO-B
Haemophilia Centre at the GRO-B
GRO-B
5. My father had a lot of FVIII treatment. He self administered the treatment at home on a regular basis and was wheelchair bound through the numerous bleeds into his joints. My father could not work and was reliant upon benefits. My mother was a housewife and mother bringing up her three children: my two older brothers and me.
6. In the mid 1980s my father was informed that he had HIV. I was young and do not remember much about it. I do not think that I was told. It was just something we knew.
7. My understanding is that the contaminated FVIII concentrate given to my father had come in from the USA and there was very little the doctors could do for him. I remember that my mother turned to drink badly at that time. I do not know when it was that my father found out he had hepatitis.
8. My father was both 'Mum and Dad' to us. He would try to be reassuring to me, telling me that he was 'OK' even when he knew he was dying. I was the youngest and he was very protective of me.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I do not believe my father received any other infections than HBV, HCV and HIV.

Section 4. Consent

10. I do not know if my father was treated or tested without his knowledge and consent as I was so young at the time. Blood samples were taken from him every time he went to the GRO-B Hospital. I do not know why.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. My father's health deteriorated and he was in so much pain. He would shake uncontrollably and he started to lose a lot of weight. My father would sweat and vomit. He lost control of his bowels and would mess himself. My Auntie GRO-B who lived five minutes away, would come over and help clean him up. It was degrading for him. He was psychologically vulnerable.

12. I was still at school when my father became ill. It had a terrible effect on me. He was my dad and I loved him. We lived in a small town and as people found out what was wrong with my father, they said insensitive things about him to me. Our family was stigmatised.

13. When my father died, our family fell apart. It was a shock to us and we lost our mum not long afterwards. I was pregnant and had moved out to live with my then partner. One of my brothers was still living at home and was evicted from it. It was a three bedroom local authority house, deemed too big for a single person. All our lives were affected.

14. My life would have been very different had my father not been infected. I did not appreciate how much the manner of my father's death had affected me until relatively recently. Since my father's death I have had a deep seated mistrust of the medical profession. In October 2019 I became dangerously unwell and I was barely able to breathe. Despite being so unwell, I refused to see a doctor. I would not have sought medical attention had it not been for my son making me go. It transpired that I was severely anaemic with a red cell blood count of 54 when it should have been at over 130. In short I had

lost one third of my red blood cells. I needed emergency treatment by way of intravenous iron.

15. I have now spoken at length to a doctor at the hospital and she believes that I need psychological counselling because of what happened to my father. I, myself, was so ill and had left it so long without seeking the medical attention I urgently needed that she commented that she did not know how I had even managed to walk in.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

16. I am unsure but I don't think that my father received any treatment for HIV and/or hepatitis.

17. None of the family were offered counselling and support. I have only relatively recently been referred for counselling and only after my own physical health was jeopardised.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

18. I think we received a small pay out of £20,000 many years ago.

Section 8. Other Issues

19. There are no other issues.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

20. I am seeking anonymity and would like my Statement redacted before publication. However I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated

3-3-2020