

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN6995001

Exhibits: WITN6995002-3

Dated: February 2022

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**FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B****

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

**Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is **GRO-B**. I was born on **GRO-B** 1962 and I live at **GRO-B** **GRO-B**.
2. My father, **GRO-B: F** (born on **GRO-B** 1936), was infected with the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) through a contaminated blood transfusion. He died on **GRO-B** 2015, aged 78. I refer to Exhibit WITN6995002 being a copy of my father's Death Certificate, the cause of my father's death being listed as Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Hepatitis 'B' related Cirrhosis.
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 (Dad) had a blood transfusion in the early part of 1988 when he was rushed to [GRO-B] Hospital. [GRO-B] Dad had had a serious accident. His leg was partially severed, and he lost a lot of blood. I was in [GRO-B] and about to get married. The hospital clinicians managed to save Dad's leg. It was all very traumatic. My Wedding was postponed until [GRO-B] and Dad was still on crutches when the day arrived. We had no idea that the blood transfusion Dad had in [GRO-B] was contaminated until, 20 years later when in 2008, he was informed that he was infected with HBV.
5. It was a full year before Dad could walk unaided after the accident. He was always smiling, always saying 'I am fine, I am fine' and never complaining. Dad was always in good health and never had cause to go to the doctors. When he began to feel unwell, it was all too late. Dad was tested as being HBV positive in May 2008.
6. I do not know what information and/or advice my Dad was given to understand and manage the infection. I am one of four siblings and we are of [GRO-B] origin. My mother (Mum) was the more communicative parent, but English was not my parents' first language. Dad was angry that he had been infected with HBV, but none of us understood the significance of the diagnosis at first. We put our trust in the doctors and thought that Dad would be treated (or that it would pass) and that he was going to be alright.

## **Section 3. Other Infections**

7. I am not aware of Dad being infected with anything other than HBV. When Dad was tested for HBV, he was, I believe, tested for everything. When Dad was diagnosed with HBV, the whole family were tested too.

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

8. Dad wasn't pre-warned of the risk of infection before or after he was given the blood transfusion. He was given the transmission as an emergency because of his very heavy blood loss. We all trusted the doctors to do right by Dad.

#### **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

9. I refer to Exhibit WITN6995003 being copy hospital letters detailing Dad's health status in GRO-B 2013 and GRO-B 2014 (14 months and 8 months before his death). Surgery wasn't an option, but Dad wanted to live (and he carried on with a smile on his face). Dad did everything he could. He did everything that was suggested to him by his clinicians. If they told him he needed radiation, he did it. If they suggested a drug trial, he was on it.
10. Before Dad became unwell, he loved life and he was full of energy. He loved to socialise. He loved to take Mum out dancing and to take us, his family, out to restaurants. He was a doting grandfather. He would have seen his grandchildren all day and every day if he could. He just adored them. My parents worked very hard. They ran a B&B and when they sold it and retired (after Dad's leg accident), the two of them loved to travel and they divided their time between England and GRO-B. They would join us for dinner two or three times each week. We were such a close family. I took Dad to a GRO-B Doctor when he started feeling unwell. The Doctor told him that he thought we were right to be worried about him and advised us to get Dad to an English Doctor for tests and scans.
11. When Dad became very unwell, everything changed. Dad couldn't stand noise (to include that of his own grandchildren). He was exhausted. He wasn't able to socialise because of his bowel disorder. He was depressed and withdrew into himself (he kept himself to himself, so as to try to stop us worrying as much

as we did) and he was often jaundiced. Towards the end, Dad was a dark yellow colour all over to include his eyes. He didn't want to see anyone outside of the family. He really struggled. Dad lasted a full 7 years after his diagnosis. I still cannot believe he is gone. My youngest brother (I have three brothers) has since learned that Dad was only expected to live for around 6 months from diagnosis. It is all so shocking.

12. Mum was diagnosed with cancer prior to Dad's death. I believe that her cancer was brought on by worry and stress. She was also very depressed, and her depression deepened after Dad died. I brought Mum out to GRO-B with us, but she just wasn't the same. She died three years ago. I light a candle next to my parents' photographs every day. I haven't got over my Dad's death and I miss them both terribly.

13. My brothers are deeply affected too. We all suffer with depression to varying degrees. I was the only (very loving) daughter and I was the apple of my father's eye. Dad wanted to be buried in GRO-B to be near to me, even in death, and that is where they both are.

#### **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

14. We are a close-knit family and we were Dad's support. No offer of counselling was made to my parents and, because of the language barrier, I am not sure it would have helped them anyway.

#### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

15. I do not think that Dad had help from the Trusts and Funds. I didn't speak to Mum about anything like that after Dad died because she would get upset. Even though what happened to Dad wasn't his fault, Mum would say 'I have no money for lawyers.'

**Anonymity**

16. I do seek anonymity and I understand that this redacted Statement will be disclosed for publication to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.....  
                    GRO-B

Dated..... 15/2/2022 .....