

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1475001

Exhibits: WITN1475002

Dated: September 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My full name is GRO-B I was born on GRO-B 1972 I and live at GRO-B
2. My father, GRO-B: F (born on GRO-B), was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood products. He developed AIDS and died on GRO-B aged 43.
3. My mother, GRO-B has also produced a witness statement, GRO-B as has my brother GRO-B.

4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father had mild/moderate Haemophilia. His clotting factor was approximately 17%.
6. My father was treated with Cryoprecipitate, but he rarely needed it. He was treated at the Arthur Bloom Haemophilia Centre at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW), Cardiff under the care of Professor Bloom.
7. On GRO-B 1983, my father was involved in a road traffic accident. He was admitted at the Royal Infirmary Hospital (RIH), Cardiff and later transferred to the UWH. My father was given Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate for the first time when he had the road traffic accident, and he was given quite a lot of it. I was travelling in the car behind my father's and was the first on the scene. I opened the door to the car and my father fell out, covered in blood. It was a traumatic event. I was very young (just 10 years old) at the time.
8. My father was given the FVIII concentrate whilst unconscious. My mother and my siblings are at a loss to understand why he was given that treatment as opposed to cryoprecipitate. Shortly after the accident, my father was found to be infected with HBV and HCV (known back then as Non A Non B Hepatitis).
9. I refer to Exhibit WITN1475002 being a copy of my father's UKHCDO record. He was first found to be HIV positive from a blood sample taken on 15th July 1984. I do not know when my father was informed of the diagnosis.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. After my father's death, we received a letter advising of the potential risk to him of vCJD. He was not aware of this prior to his death.

Section 4. Consent

11. My father was definitely treated without his knowledge and consent and without being given adequate and full information.

12. My understanding is that Professor Bloom used FVIII concentration on his patients after he became aware of the risk of infection. I believe that my father was given contaminated blood products with the view of finding out how infectious the FVIII product was. I believe that he was used as a guinea pig, for the purposes of research. Those responsible to include Professor Bloom murdered my father.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

13. My father became extremely moody, angry and aggressive after he was infected with HIV. I was just 14 years old when I found out that he was infected with HIV. My father literally screamed it at me in frustration 'I have AIDS. I have AIDS!' That is how I found out about it. Our relationship was profoundly affected. My father became a very difficult man to live with. There was no love and affection there anymore, just his worry and anxiety about his mortality. Through a deep-rooted fear of being contaminated with the disease I developed OCD related to cleanliness. It was early days, and no-one was able to reliably tell our family how

(because they didn't know) to safely protect ourselves from cross-infection. Everyone was worried. I washed myself in bleach and showered three times a day. I didn't want to be there (at home). I now look back and ask myself 'what 14 year-old washes in bleach?'

14. There was a stigma attached to HIV/AIDS as well as fear. If we had openly told people that my father had HIV, we as a family would have been the target of abuse. My father suffered work-related effects as a result of the infections, as he was no longer able to go to work. As a result, we struggled hard financially as a family.

15. I was hugely affected. I failed every single one of my GCSEs (albeit I passed them after my father's death a couple of years later at college). I left home at aged 17. I started drinking alcohol to excess and I became very aggressive. I met and married my first wife shortly after my father died. She knew the circumstances surrounding his death and threw it back at me when our marriage broke down. It was a bitter divorce and she said of my family 'they should have burned the lot of you.' My father's body was cremated. I wasn't at the hospital with my father when he died, and I wasn't allowed to see him afterwards. None of us were. I wasn't given the opportunity to say goodbye. I wasn't offered any counselling.

16. What happened to my father has changed me as a person, emotionally and psychologically. I have not spoken of it to anyone. I have been with my wife for **GRO-B** and we have been married for **GRO-B**. We have three children together and I have a stepson. I haven't even told my wife. I have always told everyone when referring to my father that he died from liver cancer. AIDS is the cause of death on his Death Certificate. I have lived with a secret for 33 years. When anything to do with HIV/AIDS is in the news and/or comes on to the TV, I choose not to notice it and I behave with indifference to it. I have learned to

close myself off. I will never speak of it. Over the years I have suffered with anxiety and depression, and I have had two breakdowns.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

17. My father received AZT treatment for the HIV. I am not sure whether he faced any difficulties in accessing the treatment.

18. My father was on a lot of medication at the time, so I am not too sure what particular effects he had as a result of the AZT.

19. I do not know whether my father received any counselling or psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

20. I did not receive any financial assistance, but I believe my parents did. I see the money that they received as blood money. Financial compensation is not going to bring my father back or compensate for my father's death.


21. For more detailed information about the financial assistance that my parents received, please refer to my mother's witness statement.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

22. I wish to remain anonymous, and I understand that this redacted Statement will be published by the Inquiry. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

ANONYMOUS

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

Signed 

Dated04/10/22.....