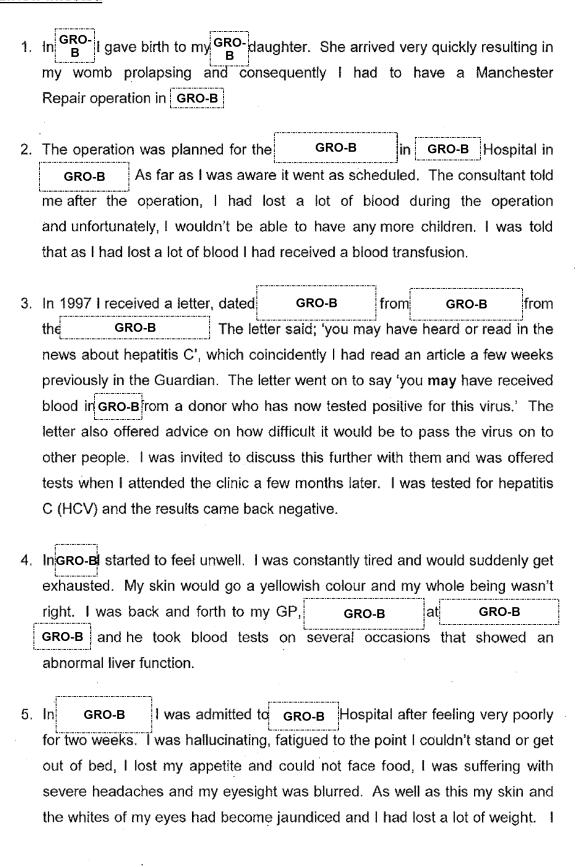
Witness Name: GRO-B
Statement No: WITN2359001
Dated: 4th March 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF	GRO-B	
I provide this statement in response to a reque 2006 dated 12th December 2018. I adopt the request for ease of reference.		• •
I, GRO-B will say as follows:-		
1. My name is GRO-B M	ly date of birth	is GRO-B
GRO-B My address is known to the Inquestion husband GRO-B	uiry. I live at this	address with my
I have been asked to write a stater received during an operation in GRO-B at 1997, I received a letter indicating that the blood used may have been contamination.	nd the fact that so at I'd had a blood	me years later, in I transfusion and

impact this had on my health, my wellbeing and me.

### 2. How Infected



was diagnosed with hepatitis but GRO-B the Consultant, couldn't tell me which strain it was.

### 3.Other Infections

1. None

### 4.Consent

 I was unaware until after the operation that I had received a blood transfusion. I cannot recall anyone telling me of any risks associated with a blood transfusion prior to the operation.

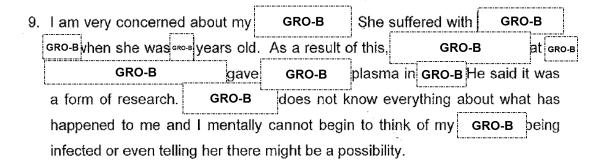
## 5.Impact

- 1. When I received the letter about the possibility of being infected with hepatitis C (HCV), I became very unhappy and concerned. I was very worried about my health, as I had recently read an article prior to receiving the letter about the infected blood scandal and what was happening to people. I decided to get the tests done as soon as possible and they came back negative.

  GRO-B verbally informed me that I was one of two patients who could have been infected in GRO-B Hospital at the time. I often wonder whom the other patient was and if she has the hepatitis C (HCV) virus or not. It has not been a comfortable feeling knowing that I could be infected and that a flare up of the condition could occur at any time.
- 2. Since my unspecified hepatitis attack in GRO- B have had periods of tiredness, yellowish skin and acid reflux. The tiredness and jaundice is sporadic and seems to happen when my immune system isn't coping very well such as if I have a cold or feeling under the weather. I am not a hypochondriac but I do worry and get concerned that I may get this unspecified hepatitis attack again. The last attack was awful and I was so poorly I didn't care if I lived or died. I do not ever want to go through that again. This illness frightened me and I can vividly remember my GP telling me that I had got to

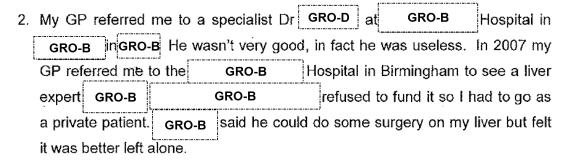
hospital just in time. My grandchildren were very young at the time and I was concerned I would pass something on to them.

- 3. In GRO- I had my GRO-B removed due to so many stones. I am not sure if this is relevant, however I feel it's worth saying this happened.
- 4. I have suffered off and on with palpitations and chest pain since GRO-B The transfusion episode has knocked my confidence and has certainly undermined my belief of the best practice possible within the health service. I find it incredible that they didn't check the blood and not own up to it. It has made me very wary of any situation I find myself in relating to my health.
- I have kept this away from my children to a large extent because I don't want them to worry about me.
- 6. It's always in the back of my mind that one day I may be tested positive. I have similar symptoms to hepatitis C (HCV) and wonder if there is another strain that hasn't been specified. I am very conscious of what could happen after having a hepatitis illness.
- 7. Over the last GR years I have developed an aversion to alcohol. I hardly drink at all, but if I do, just to be sociable, it makes me feel ill.
- 8. I feel let down by the GRO-B GRO-B Hospital has been amazing.



## 6.Treatment/Care/Support

	GRO-B prior to testing or afterwards.
	initially. I wasn't offered any counselling or support by the GRO-B
	had contracted the hepatitis C (HCV) virus was in the letter sent to me
1.	The only advice offered to me when I was undergoing blood tests to see if I



 I have been monitored regularly by my GP and have regular liver function tests. In the main, I look after myself. I eat well and try to exercise regularly, however since September GRO-I have slowed down considerably.

### 7. Financial Assistance

1. In 2004 I registered with the Skipton Fund but didn't hear anything from them.

### 8.Other Issues

1. The information I have with regard to the transfusion and illnesses I have suffered is pretty scant. Does the Inquiry think Health Authorities and Blood Transfusion Services could have provided more information to the individuals concerned on a Wales wide basis, in order to allay a lot of doubts and fears arising from this?

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

Signed.... GRO-B

Dated......4:1/.3./39......