

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**  
Statement No: WITN4147001  
Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

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

#### 1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B** My date of birth is **GRO-B** and my address is known to the Inquiry.

#### 2. How Affected

1. I make this statement regarding my daughter, **GRO-B** who was infected with hepatitis C.
2. In **GRO-B** when my daughter was **GRO-B** years old, she snuck out to a nightclub in our local town. I was visited by the police who informed me she had been glassed by another girl in the nightclub.
3. Following this horrific news, myself, and my husband at the time, drove to **GRO-B** in **GRO-B** When we got to the hospital, we were told that the

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main artery in **GRO-B**'s neck had been severed and that we couldn't see her as she was in emergency surgery.

4. **GRO-B**'s surgery felt like a lifetime. Once she was out surgery, we met with the vascular surgeon. He told us that she had died twice on the operating table. The surgeon said the operation was an overall success. During her time in hospital **GRO-B** received a total of nine pints of blood through transfusion.
5. During **GRO-B**'s ordeal, she lost a lot of oxygen to the brain and as a result, has some developmental needs. She was in hospital for around two months altogether and I believed she was going to be totally brain damaged.
6. The girl who glassed **GRO-B** was found guilty and served her sentence at **GRO-B** Prison. What she did to **GRO-B** has completely traumatised her.
7. In **GRO-B**, **GRO-B** gave birth to her son, **GRO-B**. A short while after she gave birth, **GRO-B** and I decided to go to **GRO-B** for the day. There we got into a heated row with a traffic warden which resulted in **GRO-B** pushing the traffic warden and she fell into oncoming traffic. **GRO-B** was subsequently arrested and sentenced to 3 months in **GRO-B** prison.
8. Whilst **GRO-B** was in prison, she underwent some medical checks. These included having her blood drawn. When the results of her blood test came back, she was found to be positive for hepatitis C. The nurse at the prison informed **GRO-B** she had hepatitis C. The nurse also informed her that hepatitis C is a condition that affects your liver and that it can be passed onto other individuals. She told her that she should therefore keep her stuff separate from others.
9. I remember **GRO-B**'s initial reaction to the hepatitis, was that she was dirty. When she was released from prison, she turned to drugs to cope with her diagnosis. When she found out about the hepatitis C, they didn't have a cure for it at that time.

10. My daughter turned to drugs as she felt she was good for nothing.

11. Never in a million years, did we think the blood [GRO-B] received was contaminated. Before [GRO-B] had her transfusion, she was never told that the blood could potentially be contaminated. What happened to her was absolutely horrendous. We now know a lot of the blood had been donated by prisoners.

### 3. Other infections

1. As a result of the hepatitis C, [GRO-B] was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver. She also suffers with fatigue on a daily basis.

### 4. Consent

1. From what [GRO-B] has told me, she didn't know that she was being tested for hepatitis C when she was in prison. However, she did consent to having the blood test.

### 5. Impact

1. After her diagnosis, [GRO-B] had a mental breakdown and tried to commit suicide on three separate occasions. On one occasion she was admitted to [GRO-B] Psychiatric Hospital. It was horrendous seeing her go through treatment at the psychiatric hospital.
2. The impact on [GRO-B] has been tremendous. She's had severe depression and was unable to raise her son [GRO-B]. I raised [GRO-B] for her.
3. [GRO-B] has not been able to maintain a relationship since her diagnosis. In order to try and cope she turned to recreational drugs.

4. In the late **GRO-B**, **GRO-B** began to receive treatment for her hepatitis at **GRO-B** **GRO-B** Hospital in **GRO-B**. The treatment she received was called Interferon. Initially she had treatment three times a week at the hospital, but then this went down to every two weeks and then once a month. We would travel up to **GRO-B** on the train. It was incredibly hard. However, after a while, **GRO-B** was shown how to self-treat and was then able to inject at home. She had a fantastic nurse at **GRO-B** Hospital who really supported her. During the treatment, **GRO-B** lost a lot of her hair.
5. **GRO-B** was told by her GP that she should tell her dentist and doctors that she had hepatitis C. She was also told that she wouldn't be able to share drinks with anyone.
6. **GRO-B** had a boyfriend after her diagnosis, and he told everyone she had hepatitis C. Their relationship eventually broke down, but she felt like a leper after what he had done.
7. **GRO-B** did have a job for a short while, but she struggled keep it because of how unwell she felt. Her confidence and self-worth are so low, she feels as though she is no help to anyone, which of course, is not true.
8. I have been impacted massively by **GRO-B**'s illness and have had to effectively, put my life on hold. I have been under huge stress with having to look after my daughter and my grandson. I've nursed my daughter like a baby. I don't know how I haven't broken down myself.
9. In **GRO-B**, my grandson **GRO-B** had been feeling fatigued and generally unwell, so he went for some blood tests. The results of the tests came back, and **GRO-B** was found to have tested positive for hepatitis C. We were completely shocked. **GRO-B** was later told that he had contracted this from his mother.

## 6. Treatment/Care Support

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1. **GRO-B** has received the majority of her treatment for her hepatitis at **GRO-B** **GRO-B** Hospital in London. Prior to this, **GRO-B** received her treatment at **GRO-B** hospital.
2. **GRO-B** has not had any problems accessing treatment, she was on a short waiting list for treatment at **GRO-B** Hospital.
3. My daughter has not received counselling. She has however since been offered this.
4. I have never been offered counselling.

### **7. Financial Assistance**

1. **GRO-B** has not applied for any financial assistance. We are in the process of applying to EIBSS. Nurse **GRO-B** at the hepatology ward at **GRO-B** Hospital has been a great help to us.

### **8. Other Issues**

1. There are no other issues that I wish to discuss.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed..

GRO-B

Dated... 17-12-2022