

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN4780008

Exhibits: **WITN4780009-010**

Dated: 10 June 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 16 February 2021.

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

Introduction

1. Further to my statement dated 04 March 2021. My name is **GRO-B**
GRO-B My maiden name is **GRO-B** I was born on **GRO-B** 1961. I
live in **GRO-B**
2. I am being supported today by my husband **GRO-B**
3. In my previous statement I discussed my infection with Hepatitis C (HCV)
following a blood transfusion after an operation to remove kidney stones in
1984 and my resulting health problems to date.

4. I can confirm that I have chosen not to have legal representation and that the Inquiry Investigator has explained the anonymity process to me. My family and I are seeking anonymity.
5. The right to reply has also been explained to me and I fully understand that if I am critical of any person, they have the right to see my criticism and reply accordingly.

Financial Assistance

6. For context I will repeat what I have stated in my first statement. In 2005, I applied to Skipton. I was still with my ex-partner at the time. In or on 27 April 2005, I received a letter from Nicholas Fish, the representative from Skipton, returning my application to Skipton for an Ex-Gratia payment on the basis that the doctor completing my application was unable to confirm that I had received a blood transfusion.
7. On 5 March 2020 I wrote again to the Skipton Fund. I received a response on 10 March 2020, exhibited at **WITN4780002**, informing me that the Skipton Fund is no longer active. They also notified me that my application from 19 April 2005 was “unresolved”. They then directed me to EIBSS to make a fresh application.

8. Skipton forwarded copies of my Skipton application to EIBSS with regards to a potential application for Hepatitis C stage 1 payments. I received a reply on 12 March 2020 inviting me to make an application. This is exhibited at **WITN4780003**.

9. I am currently in the process of reapplying to EIBSS for compensation for Hepatitis C and stage 2 payment for cirrhosis. I applied for hepatitis C stage 1 payment on 17 April 2020. EIBSS wrote back to me on 10 April 2020, exhibited at **WITN4780004**, requesting that I provide a positive PCR result together with evidence of my treatment with NHS blood or a supporting letter from my GP surgery.

10. I submitted my application on 11 May 2020. However, this was returned to me on 14 May 2020 on the basis that I had not attached the requisite evidence. This letter is exhibited at **WITN4780005**.

11. A copy of my original application to Skipton was forwarded to both myself and EIBSS on 21 July 2020; exhibited at **WITN4780006**.

12. Approximately 12-18 months ago, I left my EIBSS forms with my GP practice, the address is: GRO-B
GRO-B My application form is exhibited at **WITN4780007**. I requested that one of the receptionists complete the application on my behalf with the requisite information regarding the evidence of the transfusion I received in 1984.

13. However, because of the bureaucracy around Covid-19, my doctor has yet to fill out the requisite forms. I saw Dr. [GRO-B] about my medical notes in the past but now I see any GP is available as and when.

14. Since I applied to the EIBSS I have been trying to locate my medical files, this has proved to be a difficult task. I have been told that some of my records had been destroyed in a flood. I believe this was in Chichester.

15. At the end of my first interview I asked the investigator if the Infected Blood Inquiry could assist me trying to locate my records. I am now aware that the Subject Access Request Team at Portsmouth hospitals has sent the Inquiry team some 1377 pages of my medical files. I have also received some of my records from Southampton. These may be the same files but I'm not sure.

16. Today I have been shown two letters the first of which I exhibit as **WITN4780009**. The letter is dated 06 May 2004 and refers to an appointment I had on 26 April 2004, with Mr R.D. Ellis, Consultant Gastroenterologist at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham.

17. The letter appears to be updating my GP, Dr. [GRO-B] [GRO-B] about the appointment I had had with Mr Ellis. The letter starts, *'I met this lady for the first time today. As you know, she has a long history of alcohol excess and was found to be Hepatitis C positive*

about 7 years ago, which is thought to relate to a blood transfusion at the time of a nephrectomy in 1984'

18. This is the first time I have seen this letter or any recognition by the medical authorities that my Hepatitis C infection was related to a blood transfusion.

19. The second letter I have been shown is dated 08 October 2014 and relates to a Neurology clinic I attended on 25 September 2014. The letter is address to Dr [GRO-B] and is from Dr. Sean J. Slaght, Consultant Neurologist. I produce this letter as Exhibit **WITN4780010.**

20. Under Diagnoses at point three I note the entry reads: *'Treated Hepatitis C (Secondary to blood product transfusion 30 years ago)'*

21. Again I have never seen this letter before. As far as I am concerned, these two entries confirm that I had a blood transfusion and as a result contacted Hepatitis C.

22. I would also like to state the following. As mentioned, I have received some of my medical files, and on reading I feel ashamed and embarrassed about my previous drinking. It doesn't read well and I feel for my family. However, my excess drinking was in part due to the fact that I had been diagnosed with Hepatitis C. It was my coping strategy, I

felt like a leper and that people were always looking at me as a result of my infection. I did feel paranoid about this.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B

Dated 10th JUNE 2021

Table of Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Year	Description
WITN4780009	2004	Letter to Dr GRO-B from RD Ellis Consultant Gastroenterologist Queen Alexandra Hospital
WITN4780010	2014	Letter to Dr GRO-B from Dr Sean J Slaght Consultant Neurologist