

Witness Name:

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7174001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: September 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF

GRO-B

I, **GRO-B**

will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B** I was born on **GRO-B** 1964, and I live at
2. I was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated blood clotting factor administered to me when I had a liver biopsy some time in 1987, 1988 or 1989.
3. This Witness Statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my medical records.

Section 2. How Infected

4. When I was in my early to mid-twenties, I was prescribed Methotrexate as a treatment for skin psoriasis. Methotrexate can produce unwanted side effects and before going on to the drug I was given a liver biopsy to check all was well. I was given blood clotting factor, Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate I believe, ahead of the biopsy, concurrently with it, or very soon afterwards as there were issues with by blood not clotting properly.
5. I am pretty sure that I received the clotting factor at Bedford General Hospital where I had the biopsy, but it may have been administered to me at St Thomas Hospital, London where I was transferred almost immediately thereafter.
6. I was very ill straight after the biopsy and was kept in hospital for about a month. I was still quite unwell when I was discharged from hospital in the December (I remember being discharged before Christmas). I didn't really feel much better some weeks or months later. I pretty much dragged myself from GRO-B where I lived back down to the skin hospital in GRO-B, London (believing the issue to be related to the Methotrexate drug I was on). I was immediately admitted to hospital for 6 months as I was found to be in acute liver failure.
7. I do not remember much now about that 6-month hospital admission, but I remember being told that I had 'hepatitis' antibodies. I was repeatedly asked if I had previously had a blood transfusion, but no-one asked me about clotting factor. No-one has ever informed me that I had been placed at risk of infection through receiving FVIII concentrate/clotting factor. I cannot now remember if they referred to the HCV antibodies they had identified as 'Hepatitis B' or 'Hepatitis Non-A, Non-B' but I remember the letter 'B' used. My stomach was swollen with fluid. I was in a terrible way.
8. I have been left with liver issues which I believe to be under control. I was under a Consultant Hepatologist (Dr Levene) for quite a few years, but he died some

20 years ago, and no-one took over my care. Mr GP has since retired too. I do not remember being given an official HCV diagnosis. I did not fully appreciate that I had been infected with HCV until the penny dropped and a light bulb went off in my head relatively recently. No information and/or advice was ever given to me to help me to understand the infection after the biopsy or since. I am looking to obtain copies of my GP and hospital records for the requisite information.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I may have been co-infected with the Hepatitis B Virus (in addition to HCV).

Section 4. Consent

10. I had no information or advice in relation to the risk of infection.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. I have been hugely impacted, physically and mentally. I have suffered with chronic Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis since the early 1990s. Through having a damaged liver, I am unable to tolerate the drugs other sufferers are prescribed to treat the condition. My liver (the second largest organ in the body) is simply unable to do its job and remove the toxins from what is the largest organ in the body, my skin. If it hadn't been for the HCV infection, I would have had a clear skin all my life and would have been able to do the things other people take for granted, like taking your children swimming.
12. When you have dealt with a serious health condition (without successful treatment) for as long as I have you just want to get on with your life. You try

to discount the physical pain and all the troubles that run alongside it. You just want to get on with your life.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

13. I haven't had any HCV treatment.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

14. I haven't had any help through the Trusts and Funds. I didn't know/understand that I had been infected with HCV.

Anonymity

15. I wish to apply for anonymity, and I understand that this redacted Statement will be published by the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B

Dated 28th September 2022