

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7176001

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 full name is GRO-B I was born on GRO-B and I live at GRO-B
2. My ex-husband GRO-B: H (born on GRO-B) was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through contaminated Factor VIII (FVIII). He died GRO-B 2020, aged 54.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to H full medical records.

### Section 2. How Affected

4. H had severe Haemophilia A, diagnosed at birth. He was under the care of Dr Wensley and then Professor Hay at the Haemophilia Centre at the

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Manchester Royal Infirmary. He was treated with Cryoprecipitate initially and then with Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate.

5. [H] was told that he was infected with HIV some time in or around 1985. He was told that he was infected with HCV some time in or around 1992. I did not know that [H] was co-infected with HIV and HCV when I met and married him. Up until around 6 months before [H] died, I knew nothing about any of this and it has affected my trust in the system and affected my trust in people.

### Section 3. Other Infections

6. [H] wasn't infected with anything else as far as I know.

### Section 4. Consent

7. I am unable to comment on the issue of consent.

### Section 5. Impact of the Infection

8. I was just 14 years old when I met [H]. We formed a relationship and I fell pregnant. Because I was so very young, I had a termination. We stayed together and we went on to have two children together [GRO-B] born on [GRO-B] [GRO-B] 1989, and [GRO-B] born on [GRO-B] 1993. We married in 1991, separated in or around 1997 and divorced some time in or around 2010.
9. [H] knew that he was infected with HIV throughout the duration of our relationship. [H] later remarried when he was undergoing treatment/anti-viral drugs. I only found out that [H] was co-infected with HIV and HCV

when one of my daughter's overheard a conversation that he was having with his new wife. The news of it came as a huge shock to me. When I asked [H] why he hadn't told me he replied, 'you would have left me'. He later told me daughters that he thought I would have told people too. It was a massive thing to keep from me. It is not something I would have wanted to make public and I had the right to know. I was 14 years old when I met [H] and we became sexually active [H] mother knew about it and failed to forewarn me. She never breathed a word. The infection could have wiped me (and our unborn daughters) out had I and they become cross infected. I cannot get my head around why [H] and his mother withheld it from me.

10 [H] consultants would have been aware that he had married and had become a father. I was with [H] at an appointment with his GP on one occasion. I remember 'HIV1' or something to that effect appearing on the computer screen because [H] said, 'switch that off'. I asked him about it as soon as we left, and he denied it/said that it was wrong. I feel angry that [H] doctors and his mother didn't step in to protect me.

11. My relationship with [H] felt apart because he was an alcoholic. I can see now that he had a lot on his mind and a lot on his conscience. I used to think it strange that he became very worried and concerned about me every time I had a cold. He must have been wondering if he had cross-infected me with HIV. I suffer with anxiety and depression and have been diagnosed with PTSD since having a heart attack some 12 years ago. This new revelation has rocked me to my core. [H] could have easily handed me a death sentence.

## **Section 6. Treatment/care/support**

12 [H] suffered with Pulmonary Hypertension, Liver Cirrhosis and Esophageal Varices. I am unable to comment on [H] treatment. I wasn't offered any

counselling or support. No-one thought to inform me that I had been placed at risk.

**Section 7. Financial Assistance**

13. I feel very upset that the focus for compensation appears to be for a spouse.

**H** new wife didn't need to use any type of contraceptive protection from his conditions and was made aware that he was co-infected before anybody else. Provision should be made for former wives like me, people that were in the thick of it and were placed at risk rather than those afforded protection from the risk of infection.

**Anonymity**

14. I do wish to remain anonymous and I understand that this redacted Statement will be disclosed for publication to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.. **GRO-B**

Dated.....22/09/2022.. **GRO-B**