

Witness Name:

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7177001

Exhibits: WITN7177002-3

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** 1961, and I live at **GRO-B**
GRO-B
2. My father-in-law, **GRO-B: FL** (born on **GRO-B** 1914), was infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) through contaminated Factor VIII (FVIII). He died **GRO-B** 1985, aged 71.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father-in-law's full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. [FL] had mild Haemophilia A. He was under the care of the Cambridge Haemophilia Centre at the Addenbrooke's Hospital. He was treated with Cryoprecipitate initially and then with Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate.
5. [FL] became infected with HIV in 1984. The following year (in 1985 [FL] and his wife, (my mother-in-law) [GRO-B] were visited at home and informed of the diagnosis. I refer to Exhibit WITN7177002 being a copy of [FL]'s UKHCDO record. [FL] first tested HIV positive from a blood sample taken on 15th February 1985.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. [FL] 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 never met my father-in-law, [FL]. He died before I met and married his son [GRO-B]. I met [GRO-B] in 2001 and we were married [GRO-B]. I lost [GRO-B] to heart attack just this year. [GRO-B] was always very sad and low when he spoke about his father and the circumstances surrounding his death.

9. I refer to Exhibit WITN7177003 being a photograph of my late father-in-law in uniform with two friends/comrades taken during the World War II. He is the good-looking George Clooney lookalike on the right.
10. [GRO-B] was embarrassed as were the family when they found out about [FL]'s diagnosis, because it could've looked like he was having a gay double life despite being happily married. Or that he'd been injecting drugs with used needles, also highly improbable. And there was a *lot* of stigma around about HIV and AIDS at the time as any of us will remember with the Rock Hudson news and the TV commercials with the John Hurt voiceover only a couple of years or so later, so it was highly embarrassing for the family.
11. The stigma of that time was still palpable years later. When [GRO-B] first told me that his Dad had died from AIDS, I was quite shocked. I remember thinking 'Oh, my God, how did that happen?' [GRO-B] had tears streaming down his face. His father had been a respectable, heterosexual, happily married husband and father of two. It was a terrible burden for the whole family. [FL] would have lived longer if he hadn't been infected. [GRO-B]'s daughter was born with Downs Syndrome a few years before his father's HIV diagnosis. In light of that [FL] had apparently commented that it was 'typical [GRO-B] luck' when he was told that he had been infected with HIV. He trusted his doctors and he wouldn't have known that the tragedy of it could have been avoided. It was terrible for [GRO-B]. He lost his (first) wife to breast cancer in 1999. His mother [GRO-B] a lovely lady, died in 2003.
12. Notwithstanding the HIV diagnosis, [GRO-B] and [GRO-B]'s sister [GRO-B] had not expected to lose their father to AIDS so soon. [FL] had apparently got up in the night to go to the toilet and had collapsed on the floor with a rectal haemorrhage. [FL] was rushed to hospital, where he was placed in a single room (isolated) at the top of the hospital alongside other patients (in single

rooms) with HIV and AIDS. GRO-B said that FL had the tell-tale purple patches/lesions on his body (Kaposi Sarcomi), but that he didn't appear to be in pain. He was just incredibly tired and GRO-B thought he would get better. There was a lot of ignorance and misinformation circulating at the time of FL's death. When the family visited FL in hospital, they had to wear barrier protection wear in the form of gloves, mask and apron. GRO-B held FL's hand, but she didn't know whether or not she was allowed to and if it was indeed safe to touch him. When FL died, his body was swaddled up in something akin to cellofane and his coffin was sealed. GRO-B was always very hurt that he wasn't able to say goodbye to his father. Conversely, he was able to see and visit his mother in the Chapel of Rest when she died and that brought him comfort (as it did me, when I lost those close to me). It was a terrible thing for GRO-B not to be able to say goodbye.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

13. I do not think that FL had any treatment and/or support. He died after having a Gastrointestinal Bleed shortly after being told of the HIV diagnosis.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

14. My late mother-in-law was the recipient of the MacFarlane Trust stage 1 payment.

Anonymity

15. 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

September 26 m 2022