

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7233001

Exhibits:0

Dated: October 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 and I live at GRO-B  
GRO-B For the purposes of any  
correspondence connected to this statement, I will use my son, GRO-B's  
address, which is GRO-B
2. I am retired.
3. I make this witness statement in relation to my wonderful late wife GRO-B: W  
W (born on GRO-B, who was infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) via  
contaminated blood transfusions. She passed away on GRO-B aged  
GRO-B following a cerebral vascular accident.
4. Our son, GRO-B has provided a witness statement to the Inquiry under  
GRO-B He applied for anonymity, and I wish to do the same.
5. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my  
late wife's full medical records.

**Section 2. How Affected**

6. My late wife had a number of breast cancer surgeries in 1979, 1980, 1982 and 1984. I do not know the precise stages, but I believe that she had a mastectomy, then a second mastectomy followed by a reconstruction. Unfortunately, during one (or more) of the surgeries she was infected with HCV via contaminated blood transfusions.
7. My late wife's surgeries took place at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge and in the peripheral hospitals in the surrounding area.
8. I confirm that my late wife was given no information or advice prior to her blood transfusions regarding the risk of being exposed to infection.
9. I don't recall how or when my late wife was told about her HCV diagnosis.

**Section 3. Other Infections**

10. I believe that my late wife was also infected with Hepatitis B (HBV).

**Section 4. Consent**

11. I don't know whether my late wife was treated or tested without her knowledge, consent or without being given adequate or full information.
12. I don't know whether my late wife was treated or tested for the purposes of research without her consent.

**Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

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13. Our son was aged [GRO-B] when my late wife contracted breast cancer and had her first surgery. She was in poor health from that time up to and including the entire [GRO-B] year period until her death. I was self-employed, initially as an [GRO-B] [GRO-B] and then as a [GRO-B] and working long hours (8am until 7pm) to include Saturdays, to keep a roof over our heads.
14. My late wife was preoccupied with her very poor health and she had a constant stream of doctor and hospital consultations. She was always tired and lethargic. She struggled to sleep and suffered with severe depression. She had joint and muscular pain and also suffered with bad bloating.
15. She had to take a lot of medication and was in constant pain. She used to go and stay at health spas around the UK and [GRO-B] to try to manage her health.
16. I would say she was mainly constantly unwell since her infection with HCV although there were a few isolated periods in between the ill health when she was ok. It was hard as I had no idea why my late wife was so ill or why her behaviour had changed so much. Prior to her HCV infection, she used to be gregarious and had a wide circle of friends, including professors and researchers. She also had a very close friend, who she met on the [GRO-A]  
[GRO-A]  
However, following her HCV infection, my late wife started to isolate herself and fell out with all her friends. This was sad to see. However, knowing that all of this was as a result of the HCV does make it easier to understand although it is still desperately upsetting.
17. My late wife suffered with confusion and brain fog and was very difficult to live with following her infection with HCV. She would say confusing and irrational things both to me and my son. There were many arguments over a long period of time culminating in our divorce in [GRO-B] or [GRO-B]. My wife's infection with HCV had an extremely negative effect on both mine and our son's lives.

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18. Thankfully, my late wife and I later reconciled a few years later and had been living together again for many years prior to her passing. There were still a few bumps in the road as we still had all of the negative effects of HCV to contend with. However, none of this was my late wife's fault. She was perfect and I adored her. We had many wonderful times together and we really enjoyed each other's company. I cherish and miss those treasured moments. I tried my very best for our family and I hope that my son is proud of me.

19. Sadly, my late wife suffered injuries as a result of a road traffic accident in May 2006 and passed away due to a cerebral vascular incident on GRO-B aged GRO-B

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

20. As far as I am aware, my late wife was not offered any treatment for her HCV.

21. Neither my late wife nor I were offered any counselling or psychological support in consequence of her HCV infection.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

22. I have never received any financial assistance from any of the Trusts or Funds.

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

23. I would like this Inquiry to find answers to this tragedy. My late wife's last operation was in 1984 and it is unbelievable that 40 years have passed, and we are still without answers.

24. I feel extreme disappointment and distress at this fact, almost a sense of total disbelief.

25. I want justice in every sense. I want this for my late wife, for our family and for future generations so that history is never repeated.

**Anonymity**

26. I wish to apply for anonymity.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-B .....

Dated..... 26/10/22 .....