

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7242001

Exhibits:0

Dated: 01/11/2022

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

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I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B I reside at GRO-B  
GRO-B My date of birth is GRO-B 1962. I am married and live with my wife. I do not work.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

#### Section 2. How infected

3. I have Haemophilia B, its severity is mild. I received Factor 9 blood products. I attended the Haemophilia Centre at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.
4. My haemophilia was diagnosed in 1969. I received infected blood products in the 1970s and 1980s.

5. There was no discussion about any risks of being exposed to any infections from the blood products I was given. We were given no information on this.
6. As a result of receiving infected blood, I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C. I also had Hepatitis A as well, that was cured.
7. I found out about the infection after having a blood test. I was told they were testing people who had haemophilia and so I had a test. I was then called up to say I had Hepatitis C. I was informed by the liver doctor at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, I was just told I had the Hepatitis C infection, that I was one of the ones who were infected. They did not make a great deal out of it.
8. I do not think adequate information was given to me about the infection to help me understand and manage it.
9. I believe they could have found out I was infected earlier and consider I should have been told about the infection earlier.
10. I would say the medical staff were considerate in their approach when they told me about the infection over 3 visits, but I should have been told earlier, back when they knew that the infection was rife in haemophiliac patients.
11. I wasn't really given a lot of information about the risks in passing the infection on to other people. I was just told not to share toothbrushes and that was it.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

12. To my knowledge the only infections I contracted as a result of the infected blood was Hepatitis A, B and C

### **Section 4. Consent**

13. I do not believe I was treated or tested without my knowledge or consent, or for the purposes of research. They always said whatever the tests were for. I

consider I was given adequate information about the tests and treatment, although I was not given adequate information about the actual infection.

### **Section 5. Impact of the Infection**

14. I have never had a permanent full-time job as a result of the infection. I was applying for jobs and when it came to questions about my health, and I disclosed the haemophilia potential employers always jumped the gun to assume that I was infected with HIV and Hepatitis.
15. At the time I said I was not infected because I still wasn't too sure, all I knew then was that I didn't have HIV, I was still finding out about the Hepatitis C and didn't know much about it so did not disclose it. Because I had haemophilia people just assumed I was infected.
16. The Hepatitis infections made me tired at the start, and it still does at times. I have to plan on days when I feel good otherwise my wife has to go on her own, she will drive and if I feel tired, she brings me back home.
17. Mentally I do not like going to face to face things, I try to avoid meeting new people and have become a bit of recluse due to the infections.
18. I developed depression as a result of being infected and have been taking antidepressants for around 30 years.
19. I have bother with my liver and since then have found out that I only have one kidney and I have problems with that, if I take too many pain killers it aggravates it.
20. My social life has been affected by the infections. I am ok with my immediate family, they are ok and understand about it, but if I am out with members of my wider family, I find it is awkward to talk to them about it, they don't understand, I don't speak to them as much and as a result I am more distant with them.

21. When I first found out about the infection, I was worried about what would happen when I cut myself, how it would be cleaned up, I still do worry about it now.

22. I don't feel I have been affected by any stigma associated with the infection.

23. I do feel my education was affected, towards the end of my schooling when I had been infected but not yet diagnosed, I was very tired a lot and that impacted on my studies.

24. I have been affected financially as a result of the infections as I have not been able to work and find it hard to get finance.

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

25. I have had problems with some treatment, if I need dental treatment, I have to go to a dental place in Glasgow which is around 40 miles away, it is the only place I can go that will treat me.

26. I have not been denied any treatment as a result of the infections.

27. I have never been offered any counselling or psychological support; I would have had it if it had been offered.

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

28. I have had financial assistance from the Skipton Fund. I had payments one of £20,000 about 18 years ago and then one of £30,000 about 5 or 6 years ago. I found out about the fund from the doctors at the Haemophilia Centre at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

29. I now also get a monthly payment of £2,000 every month. I have been getting this for the past 5 years.

30. I found it relatively easy to apply for financial assistance, I do not recall having any problems with it. I found them pretty understanding and ok to deal with.

**Anonymity**

31. I wish to remain anonymous.

32. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed. GRO-B .....

Dated 1 - 11 - 22