

Witness Name:

GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7322001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 26 10 22

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5 October 2022.

I, GRO-B will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

- 1. My full name is GRO-B and my date of birth is GRO-B 1951. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am married and have 3 children. I am retired.
- 2. I wish to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of a transfusion in child birth.
- I confirm that I am not currently legally represented and that I am happy for the Inquiry Team to assist me with my statement.
- I have had the option to seek anonymity and the Inquiry's statement of approach explained to me. I can confirm that I am requesting anonymity.
- The inquiries criticisms procedure and the 'right of reply' has been explained to me.

Section 2: How Infected

| 6. | My first child was born in 1980 and my third in 1987, I had no issues with these births | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 7. | Following the birth of my 2nd child on the GRO-B 1983 in the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading; I lost quite a lot of blood. | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | The system they used at that time was for your own G.P. and a midwife to be there to assist you, in the hospital. After the birth, my G.P. had left, I told the midwife that I was bleeding and something needed to be done. The midwife was going off duty and simply said, that bleeding was normal. | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | This was my 2 nd child so I knew the amount of blood was not right. I had to press her to call a doctor. As it was the middle of the night, apparently he was angry to be woken up and didn't attend, the midwife also left. I was left with a hospital nurse from about 2.30am until the morning shift arrived. | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | 10. The nurse gave me an injection to stop the bleeding. Apparently part of the placenta had not detached and was still inside me. | | | | | | | | |
| 11. | At some point in the morning I had an operation under general anaesthetic to | | | | | | | | |
| | remove this, and woke up to find I was having a blood transfusion | | | | | | | | |
| 12. | I cannot recall being told that there was any risk with the transfusion. | | | | | | | | |
| 13. | In December 2012, I needed to have chemotherapy within GRO-B | | | | | | | | |
| l | GRO-B in Oxford for a rare auto-immune condition called Anti-Synthetase Syndrome with Interstitial lung disease. | | | | | | | | |
| | called Anti-Synthetase Syndrome with interstitial rung disease. | | | | | | | | |
| 14. | It has never been established if there was any cause for my Anti-Synthetase | | | | | | | | |
| | Syndrome. | | | | | | | | |

| 15. | The disorder is immune-mediated, which means there is inflammation | resulting |
|-----|--|-----------|
| | from abnormal functioning of the immune system and the presence of | specific |
| | autoantibodies that target a specific protein in the body. | |

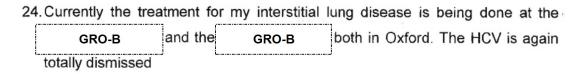
| 16 | Prior | to | the | treatment | they | gave | me | a | blood | test, | which | identified | that | I | hac |
|----|-------|-----|-----|-----------|------|------|----|---|-------|-------|-------|------------|------|---|-----|
| C | ontra | cte | d H | CV. | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 17. I have no other risk factors, I have never taken illegal drugs intravenously, I do | 'n |
|--|----|
| have any tattoos. Therefore it can only have been the transfusion. | |

| 18.A doctor in | GRO-B | asked | me | "Have | you | been | exchanging | needle | s?" |
|----------------|----------------|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------|---------------|--------|-----|
| implying that | t I was a drug | addict | t. I to | old then | n firm | nly tha | t I had never | taken | any |
| illegal drugs. | | | | | | | | | |

- 19. The hospital delayed the chemo for about 2 days because they had to establish, if I was able to have it, while I was infected with HCV. During this time I was on very high dose steroids.
- 20. Eventually I was allowed to continue with the chemotherapy, which helped but I still have the conditions described.
- 21.I have never received any treatment for the HCV. I never been given any information on how I should deal with it, or how not to infect others.
- 22. It is possible that the prescription drug I am treated with for my disease, may not safely be paused in order for me to have treatment for HCV, should I need it. I have been told several times that the HCV is not important.

| 23.I have now | ı asked one | of the | GPs to ac | ld a test for | Hepatitis to my | monthly blo | od |
|---------------|-------------|--------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|----|
| tests, due | soon. My | G.P. | surgery | is | GRO-B | | in |
| GRO-B | Oxfordsh | ire. | | | | | |



Section 3: Other Infections

25. As far as I'm aware I have not contracted any other infections, than HCV.

Section 4: Consent

- 26.1 don't know that I have been tested without my knowledge or consent or used for research purposes.
- 27.1 do not believe I was provided with adequate information about my infection or how to deal with it.

Section 5: Impact

28.I am very worried that the untreated HCV could already affecting my liver or will lead to liver disease.

Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support

- 29. A few weeks ago I went to my G.P. about all my current issues and raised HCV and was told, "It wasn't an issue, as nothing had happened in all these years".
- 30.1 do not think I got the appropriate advice when I was first diagnosed by the hospital.
- 31. In relation to all my others ailments, I feel that I have been treated well.
- 32. No counselling or psychological support was made available to me.

Section 7: Financial Support

33. Until I spoke to the investigators, I wasn't aware of any financial support or compensation being available. I have been advised to contact the HCV Trust in this regard.

Section 8: Other Issues

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34. I have no other matters that I would like to raise.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B

Dated 26 10 22