

ANONYMOUS



Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN7322001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 26/10/22

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

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.
3. I confirm that I am not currently legally represented and that I am happy for the Inquiry Team to assist me with my statement.
4. 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.
5. 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 2nd 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. 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** **GRO-B** in Oxford for a rare auto-immune condition called Anti-Synthetase Syndrome with Interstitial lung disease.
14. It has never been established if there was any cause for my Anti-Synthetase Syndrome.

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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 had contracted HCV.
17. I have no other risk factors, I have never taken illegal drugs intravenously, I don't have any tattoos. Therefore it can only have been the transfusion.
18. A doctor in **GRO-B** asked me "Have you been exchanging needles?" implying that I was a drug addict. I told them firmly that 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 asked one of the GPs to add a test for Hepatitis to my monthly blood tests, due soon. My G.P. surgery is **GRO-B** in **GRO-B** Oxfordshire.

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24. Currently the treatment for my interstitial lung disease is being done at the GRO-B and the GRO-B both in Oxford. The HCV is again totally dismissed

Section 3: Other Infections

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

Section 4: Consent

26. I don't know that I have been tested without my knowledge or consent or used for research purposes.

27. I 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. I 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