

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7435001

Exhibits:0

Dated: November 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 I live at GRO-B  
GRO-B
2. I am retired and I currently live with a relative.
3. I make this statement in relation to my late father, GRO-B: F who was born on GRO-B, and passed away, aged GRO-B on GRO-B having been infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) via a contaminated blood transfusion.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's medical records. I confirm that I applied for these on Monday 31 October 2022.

**Section 2. How Affected**

5. My late father was infected with HCV following a blood transfusion during routine surgery for a urinary blockage in or around 1987/1988 at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield.
6. I do not know whether my late father was given any information or advice regarding the risk of being exposed to infection via blood transfusions prior to receiving the blood transfusion. My mother may have known more about this but sadly she has also passed away.
7. Following the urinary blockage surgery, my late father came home and was expected to bounce back to his normal self, but this never happened. This was both worrying and unexpected. A short while later, we were then told by medical professionals at the hospital that my late father had "*Hepatitis C and liver problems*". The medical professionals then started treated him for the HCV and liver problems although I don't know if he was given any actual HCV treatment in an attempt to clear the virus. I believe that he may have been too poorly for this and in fact deteriorated faster than expected.
8. My late mother asked the medical professionals whether my late father could pass on the HCV. They told her that this was not possible just by being close to the person although it could be passed via blood to blood.
9. We wondered how on earth my late father had been infected with HCV and why he was experiencing liver problems. We had no idea about infected blood at this time; we had no reason to question this we thought having blood was just the routine part of the surgery and that everything had gone to plan.
10. Due to the marked deterioration in my late father's health, he ended up going in and out of hospital about three or four times, following the surgery. By about the second time he started deteriorating mentally as well as physically. It was around this time that we became aware that my late father had received infected blood. I believe that one of my late father's doctors told my mother that

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this was the case. However, due to the extent of my late father's mental deterioration, we never told him that he had received infected blood. We felt that he would be unable to deal or process with such information in his poor mental state.

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

11. As far as I am aware my late father was only infected with HCV. Nothing else was ever mentioned by the health professionals and no other infections are noted on his death certificate.

### **Section 4. Consent**

12. I don't know whether my late father was treated or tested without his knowledge or consent. My late mother may have known more but she has passed away. Furthermore, I don't know whether he was tested or treated for the purposes of research without his knowledge or consent.

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

13. Due to my late father's regular attendance at hospital following his infection with HCV, I recall the ward staff commenting on how much his personality had changed and they also noted the rapid mental deterioration. I recall the ward staff saying that they were going to investigate why my late father had gone downhill so rapidly but I never heard anything further in this regard.
14. The mental decline was difficult to witness; my late father was suddenly unable to follow conversations whereas prior to his infection he was mentally sharp and used to help me with the paperwork side of running my business.
15. My late father was extremely fatigued, to the extent that he could not get in and out of bed, following his infection. I remember him struggling to get a good night's sleep and he used to toss and turn and was generally in a bad way. Prior to his infection, he was fairly fit and healthy. The change in him; both

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physically and mentally was astonishing; he became a shadow of his former self following his HCV infection.

16. It was a very difficult period for the whole family but particularly so for my late mother, who effectively became my late father's carer.

17. I remember my late father being given conflicting advice by the medical professionals; one doctor told him to drink lots of fluid to try to deal with his very swollen abdomen which was caused by the liver damage. However, another doctor then decided that that was the wrong advice, and they stopped the excessive fluid plan. I recall the medical professionals actually utilising a pump in an attempt to get rid of the excess fluid. My late father's liver was failing, and it could not cope with the fluid.

18. I have wonderful memories of my late father and me working in the family business. Our family ran a woodwork manufacturing business in Sheffield which I joined when I left school. My late father was incredibly talented with the machinery and excelled in his field.

19. When he retired my late father developed an avid interest in photography and this ended up being a great passion of his until his latter years when he was too poorly to do anything.

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

20. As far as I am aware, my late father did not receive any unfavourable treatment by medical professionals as a result of his HCV.

21. Neither my late father nor I were offered any counselling or psychological support in consequence of what happened.

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

22. As far as I am aware, my late father received no financial support from any of the Trusts or Funds.

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23. I have not received any financial support from any of the Trusts or Funds.

## **Section 8. Other Issues**

24. I want the Inquiry to find out the truth and get to the bottom of what happened.

## **Anonymity**

25. I wish to apply for anonymity.

## **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed 

GRO-B
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Dated 06/11/2022 .....

**'I confirm that I have approved my Statement and I have typed my name in place of signing.'**