

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7445001

Exhibits:0

Dated: November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I, Mrs GRO-B will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B My date of birth is GRO-B 1930. I reside at GRO-B. I am a widow and live with my son.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my husband's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

3. My late husband, Mr GRO-B: H was infected with Hepatitis C following a blood transfusion. He had surgery in early 1985 for a prostate problem and had to be given blood during the surgery.
4. My late husband's surgery took place at the GRO-B in GRO-B, the hospital has since closed.

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5. As far as I am aware my husband was not given any information about being exposed to risks of infection prior to being given the transfusion as he had it during surgery.
6. He was never informed of his Hepatitis C infection, we were only told after this death.
7. My husband had had some health problems for some time. He had stomach pain, swelling, high temperatures at night. He was generally feeling unwell and tired. He had some medical investigations and he went to the hospital, they did a liver biopsy. We then had a letter, after this death, from the consultant saying he had the Non A Non B Hepatitis C.
8. I do not believe adequate information was provided to my husband to understand and manage the risk of infection. He was not diagnosed until 1991, at that time he was undergoing a lot of investigations to try and find out what was wrong over a 4 week period. They did a biopsy to confirm the infection, but he bled and they didn't try to save him, he passed away on the day of the biopsy at age 66. The Pathologist's report confirms they also removed the spleen and a lymph node. The pathology report confirmed malignant T-cell lymphoma.
9. It also transpired that he had liver cancer.
10. The Medical Certificate of cause of death issued by the hospital confirms the cause of death as myocardial infarction and cardiac irregularities. He also had malignant T-cell lymphoma caused by the Hepatitis C infection.
11. My husband had been infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of being given infected blood during a blood transfusion.
12. For some time my husband had had some health problems. He had stomach pain and swelling, he had temperatures at night and was generally feeling tired and unwell. He went to hospital for investigation, he had a biopsy and that is when the Consultant wrote a letter saying he had Non A Non B Hepatitis.

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13. When he was in the hospital and they did the biopsy he started to bleed and they did not try to save him. He was injected with something and he passed away. I believe he was injected with a high dose of morphine, so it looked like he was poisoned.
14. They did not attempt to resuscitate him and had not spoken to him beforehand about resuscitation. They told us the key to the resuscitation machine had been lost so could not bring the machine to try and resuscitate him.
15. There was no opportunity to provide him with information about the infection as he died.
16. At the time of his death, he had been having symptoms for several months, around 6 to 7 months.
17. Liver cancer was also mentioned in the report of the biopsy, but this was not on his death certificate.

Section 3. Other Infections

18. I am not aware of my late husband being diagnosed with any other infections.

Section 4. Consent

19. My husband was tested with his consent. I do not believe he was tested or treated without his consent.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

20. The infection caused him to feel unwell all the time. He would just spend his time lying on the sofa. He would watch TV, he loved to play card games and spent a lot of time playing cards, but had stopped for 6 to 7 months before he was admitted to hospital.

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21. Before he became unwell he would go out, he would go out to his friends, they would go to each others houses to play cards. He liked to be busy and keep busy.
22. The infection caused my husband to have liver cancer, this was informed to us after the biopsy.
23. My husband was given no treatment for his Hepatitis C. He had a biopsy and had bleeding after that, they should have operated to try and stop the bleeding but they didn't, they just gave him an injection and he died.
24. The family have been very distressed about what happened to my husband. If they had tried to do something after the biopsy to save him it wouldn't have been so distressing to us, but they didn't try to save him.
25. I was very sad after the death of my husband and felt alone, it was not easy we had been married for a long time, since GRO-B.
26. There was stigma associated with my husband's infection before he died. Although he did not know he was infected, he looked so ill and weak and some people in the town thought he had AIDS and were worried to contact him and speak to him. They assumed he had AIDS because of how he looked.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

27. My husband did not have the opportunity to be treated or given support, he had a biopsy to investigate what was wrong and died as a result of bleeding following the biopsy.
28. No counselling or psychological support has been offered.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

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29. We have had no financial support as a result of what happened to my husband.
We were unaware of the financial support that is available until very recently. I
would have applied before had I known about it.

Section 8. Other Issues

30. It is a very sad story what happened to my husband. He died as a direct result
of a biopsy to investigate and diagnose his infection.

Anonymity

31. I wish to remain anonymous.

32. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry, I am 92 years old, my age
would make it too difficult.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated 21 NOVEMBER 2022