

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN7529001

Dated: 16th December 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 30th November 2022. I adopt the paragraph numbering in the Rule 9 request for ease of reference.

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

1. Introduction

1. My name is **GRO-B** My date of birth is **GRO-B** and my address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I wish to make this statement on behalf of my husband, **GRO-B: H** who died of cirrhosis of the liver (non-alcohol related) and ischemic heart failure on the **GRO-B**
3. At present, I am suffering with ill health having been diagnosed with cancer of the spine. My mobility is limited, and I am assisted by a Carer who visits me at regular intervals and helps with personal care such as putting me to bed.

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4. I met **H** at the local rugby club when I was **GRO-B** years old, and we married when I was **GRO-B**. We have **GRO-B** children, namely **GRO-B** (known as **GRO-B** who is the eldest, **GRO-B**
5. **H** worked as an **GRO-B** and then later became a **GRO-B** at the local **GRO-B** in **GRO-B**. He was very proud of working at the only **GRO-B** **GRO-B** in **GRO-B**. When the **GRO-B** closed in the mid to late **GRO-B**s, he stayed on for a short while to oversee the work needed for the **GRO-B** to be safely closed. The small redundancy payment he received from the mine allowed us to buy the family home.

2. How affected

1. **H** and I had a close loving relationship until he was diagnosed with hepatitis. After receiving his diagnosis his personality changed. He went from a loving, tactile husband and father to a man who did not want to be touched by me or his children. He became very distant from us.
2. **H** was a very creative man and a self-taught artist. He was also a very good singer and on one occasion appeared on a television talent show called **GRO-B** in the **GRO-B**. He was also very good at making and fixing things and would often teach the children how to repair a radio or make fishing weights.
3. When **H** was in his **GRO-B** he was rushed to the **GRO-B** Hospital with a burst appendix. During this operation, he received a blood transfusion. A short while later, doctors discovered that a wire had been left inside **H** body during the operation and he was told that this had to be removed so they operated on him again.
4. Then in the **GRO-B**s it was discovered that **H** had a problem with his heart. He had to undergo quite a big heart operation and I believe that he also received a blood transfusion(s) during this surgery.

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5. I am unable to be specific about dates of these operations as the family have been informed by the hospital that [H] medical records have been destroyed.
6. My daughters [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] [GRO-B] have also made witness statements to the Inquiry. These statements contain further detail on the events surrounding [H] infection with hepatitis.

3. Other Infections.

1. I am not aware that [H] contracted any other infection apart from hepatitis as a result of receiving bad blood.

4. Consent

1. I do not have any knowledge as to whether [H] was treated or tested without his knowledge, consent without being given adequate or full information or for research.

5. Impact

1. As stated previously [H] and I had a close loving relationship until he was diagnosed with hepatitis. Once his hepatitis was diagnosed, his personality changed. He became withdrawn and didn't want me or the children to touch, kiss or cuddle him. He became very distant from us all.
2. [H] believed he had been labelled and put in the same bracket as those who had been promiscuous in sexual relations and/or drug abuse.
3. On family occasions such as birthdays or Christmas, instead of being involved in the celebration as he would have previously, [H] would choose to stand away from the hub of the family in a corner somewhere and watch from afar.

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4. I recall [H] and I went to [GRO-B] one year to stay with a relative who owned a place there. We both loved it so much that we decided that once we retired, we would move to a nice warm sunny place to enjoy our retirement, but unfortunately this dream was taken away from us by [H] illness.
5. After a series of operations involving his appendix, heart, and oesophagus, [H] went to see Dr. [GRO-B] (his GP) at the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] because he had become unwell again. Dr. [GRO-B] referred him to the [GRO-B] Hospital where they carried out further tests and informed [H] that he had a virus in his blood which had caused him to be infected with hepatitis. At no time did they offer him any treatment for this. [H] was not informed of the risks of the infection and so was ignorant to the fact that the hepatitis was attacking his liver. [H] would have had total faith in the doctors to inform him of any potential risks.
6. When [H] liver eventually failed, my daughter [GRO-B] (known as [GRO-B]) asked the doctors if there was a possibility of [H] receiving a transplant. She was informed however, that it was too late for a transplant as [H] was too ill by that stage.
7. [H] illness had a massive affect on our lives. It was hard looking after five children, going to work and taking care of [H] Plus, in the later years, I also had my own health problems to contend with.

6. Treatment/Care Support

1. I believe that when [H] was diagnosed with hepatitis he should have received more care and support from medical staff. I do not believe he was given sufficient information about hepatitis and the risk of infection.

7. Financial Assistance

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1. H did not receive any financial assistance from any of the Trusts or Funds as he was never made aware that he could apply for any financial assistance.

8. Other Issues

1. I don't have anything further to add here.

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Statement of Truth

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

GRO-B

Signed..

Dated 17/11/2022