

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN7546001

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** and I live at **GRO-B**
GRO-B
2. My wife, **GRO-B: W** (born **GRO-B**), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through a contaminated blood transfusion.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my wife's full medical records **W** has provided her own Witness Statement to

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the Inquiry (Witness Number **GRO-B**) This Statement should be read in conjunction with **W**'s Statement.

Section 2. How Infected

4. **W** had a blood transfusion at the birth of our twin boys on **GRO-B** 1991 at the **GRO-B** **W** had Pre-eclampsia and the boys were born by caesarean section 6 weeks premature. She was given four units of blood at the time.
5. **W** wasn't told that she had been placed at risk of infection through the blood transfusion until more than four years later when she received a letter from the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Blood Transfusion Service. She tested positive for HCV antibodies on 6th June 1995.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I do not think that **W** was infected with anything other than HCV.

Section 4. Consent

7. I was present at the birth of the twins. I remember the blood being administered and I remember the nurse (with short black hair) administering it. Anecdotally, I remember the bag of blood on the stand wasn't going down (decreasing in volume) and I mentioned it to the nurse. She came over, checked it, did

something and it started to transfuse to [W] [W] was out of it. She didn't see the babies for a couple of days.

8. No-one advised us as to the risk of infection through the blood transfusion. I find it astonishing that unscreened units of blood (with a limited shelf life of weeks) were still being used as late as 1991.

Section 5. Impact

9. [W] is from a relatively large family. She has two sisters and two brothers. [W]'s mother is a twin, and she was over the moon when she learned that she was going to have twins herself. It was the best news ever and she was so happy and proud (as was I).
10. After the birth of our twin boys and for a long period, my wife was very tired and struggled with bringing up the boys as well as daily life. So, we decided to have no more children.
11. Becoming new parents should be one of the happiest, if not the happiest, time of anyone's life. It wasn't like that for [W]. Her experience was dampened by her exhaustion. [W] is ordinarily active and energetic. Her lethargy and exhaustion after having the twins was profound. She didn't want to see anyone. When we learned four years later that [W] had been infected with HCV, her fatigue made better.
12. We lived in a small community in North East Scotland. We knew a lot of people in our hometown. [W] is a very proud and private person and being infected

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with HCV is (still) a sensitive issue for her. After finding out in 1995 about the blood infection we moved to Ireland and left the community of family and friends where we grew up. The infection was not the entire reason for moving away but it contributed to it. We weren't financially secure at that time, and I had to go through a gruelling interview process before I was offered the position in Ireland that I needed in order to make the move viable. Thinking back, it was a stressful time for us, having just learned too that [W] had tested positive for HCV antibodies.

13. My wife feels cheated out of the early years with the children because of her exhaustion. Something she will never get back. We would have loved to have more children but because of [W]'s tiredness we thought better of it and then in the end due to the antibodies then it was a definite 'no no'. [W] suffers from Raynauds Syndrome now.

14.1 do not think that we were necessarily given adequate information to help us to understand and manage what had happened. I was never tested for HCV and/or HCV antibodies and I only recently realised the HCV can be transmitted through sex. [W] doesn't like talking about what happened. She hated reading her own Statement. Life has its own road, and we are, of course, thankful that our boys are healthy. However, I always think how different things could have been for us if [W] hadn't self-cleared the virus. There would have been some very serious implications to include the possibility of [W]'s death, leaving two young children without a mother. There are no words to begin to describe that outcome.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. W wasn't offered any counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

16. W is a Scottish blood scheme recipient.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

17.1 wish to remain anonymous, and I understand that this redacted Statement will be published by the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated.....13th December 2022.....