

ANONYMOUS



Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN7604001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated:

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 16 December 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** 1964. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am not married and have no children. I am a semi-retired postman.
2. I wish to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C (HCV) as a result of a number of probable transfusions as a child.
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 also confirm that 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.

ANONYMOUS

Section 2: How Infected

6. I was born at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. Apparently, it was a difficult birth for my mother, I was breech birth, and may have required a transfusion for both her and me. I cannot check this because my mother and father have both passed away, but this is what I was led to believe.
7. In 1969, when I was about 5 years old, I was found to have an un-descended testicle. I was admitted to St Mary's Hospital and I had an operation, where they made an incision but were unable to find the testicle. I don't know if I had a blood transfusion but I may have.
8. At the age of 6 or 7 (1970/1), my chest was badly scalded when a pan of boiling water spilt over me. I was taken to GRO-B Hospital in GRO-B, London. I believe that I was given blood plasma to replace the fluids that I had lost.
9. When I was 12 or 13 (about 1976/7) I was again admitted to St Mary's Hospital for a further operation. They made a larger incision but again were unable to find the testicle. Again, I am unsure if I had a transfusion, but as this was a larger operation it is more likely.
10. In 1982, I was aged 18 and had an operation at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, to have a prosthetic testicle fitted. I don't know if I had a transfusion for this procedure.
11. About 18 years ago (about 2004), I was having an appointment in the Royal Free Hospital for a minor dermatology issue. I was given a blood test and the Dermatologist asked "when did you get the result?", I must have looked confused, they said "Do you have Hepatitis C?". This was the first I knew of having the HCV infection. I was given a liver function test (again at the Royal Free), which confirmed the HCV.
12. I was transferred to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington for my HCV treatment. I feel I was given a good explanation of the infection and I was told the type of HCV I had (the genotype) was 'good' and responded well to treatment. The side effects were explained to me as well. What I do to do e.g. to dentists etc. I

ANONYMOUS

was told not to drink alcohol.

13. Although I was told the information about HCV, I was still confused initially, how had it happened to me, what did the future hold for me. Over the years I did get more information to enable me to cope.
14. After some time, I don't recall how long, I was started on a course of Interferon and Ribavirin. The course was for 6 months. The side effects I had been told I would get were all true; I had flu like symptoms, lethargy and my hair thinned. I was able to carry on with work but that was really because I had to.
15. I had regular blood tests during the treatment and my infection number gradually came down. I completed the whole 6 months and eventually I told I the infection was clear.
16. There was then a year or 2, of further check-ups with blood tests. The final one was with the Professor who signed me off and I asked if I could drink alcohol, he said "you've been cured, you can do what you like within reason".
17. I received an email from the HCV Trust a couple of months ago (I think), which stated that GRO-B Hospital were starting an initiative with testing into HCV. I signed up and they have done numerous tests including liver function and blood tests. They have found that I have a fatty liver, I have also had an Ultra Sound but I am waiting for the results to see if I have any scarring on my liver.
18. For the fatty liver, I have to make some lifestyle changes to lose weight and take exercise. Which I am doing.
19. I have no other risk factors for the HCV infection. I have no tattoos, I had an ear pierced but it was done in a reputable high street place, I have never taken drugs intravenously, I drank alcohol but never to excess.

Section 3: Other Infections

20. As far as I'm aware I have not contracted any other infections, than HCV. I was once given the Hepatitis B (HBV) vaccine by my GP.

ANONYMOUS

Section 4: Consent

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

22. I do not believe I was provided with adequate information initially to allow me to understand about my infection or how to deal with it. This has improved over the years.

Section 5: Impact

23. The original diagnosis was very difficult to cope with, but so was being given the all clear as far as the infection was concerned, not knowing what residual damage had been done by the HCV.

24. It was mentally difficult to cope with and I felt stressed out. I am naturally a quiet person and I bottled it all up, I didn't even tell my parents about the HCV. It took a long time to understand. My hair thinned.

Section 6: Treatment/Care/Support

25. No counselling or psychological support was made available to me but in hindsight I was depressed but didn't tell anyone about it.

26. I feel I was treated well and have no criticisms of the actual care that I received.

Section 7: Financial Support

27. I have been advised by the Investigator to contact the NHS Trusts for the hospitals where I may have had transfusions, to see if they still have any medical records. Also, my GP.

28. I will then consider making an application to the English Infected Blood Support Scheme.

Section 8: Other Issues

29. I have no other matters that I would like to raise.

ANONYMOUS

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated

24 January 2023