

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1268001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: April 2019

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, DOB GRO-B and I live at GRO-B GRO-B with my wife and my step-daughter. I was infected with Hepatitis C through contaminated blood products.
2. My eldest brother, GRO-B: B1 B1, died on GRO-B after being infected with HIV and Hepatitis C through contaminated blood products.
3. My second brother, GRO-B: B2 B2, died on GRO-B after also being infected with HIV and Hepatitis C through contaminated blood products.
4. My mother, GRO-B, has also provided a witness statement to the Inquiry.
5. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Infected

6. I was diagnosed with severe haemophilia A as a baby. The diagnosis came as no surprise due to the family history of haemophilia, including my two brothers.

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7. I was treated with Factor VIII concentrate from the outset at Alder Hey Hospital.
8. When I was around [GRO-B] years old I went to the Royal Liverpool Hospital for a routine blood appointment. They told me at this meeting that I was Hepatitis C antibody positive. I was crying my eyes out as I was terrified that I had now been infected with Hepatitis C.
9. It was later explained to me that this actually meant that I had cleared the virus. There remains uncertainty amongst the doctors I ask as to whether there is a chance that the virus could come back, as some have told me that the virus cleared naturally whereas others have said it could be lying dormant.
10. I do not believe I have suffered from physical symptoms of the virus.
11. Information as to how my brothers' were infected can be found in my mother's statement.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I received a letter telling me that I may have been exposed to vCJD, however I have not heard much after this or received any other information.

Section 4. Consent.

13. I was not initially made aware that they had found the Hepatitis C virus in my system, let alone told that they were testing me for it.

Section 5. Impact

14. The impact on my schooling was massive. I have no idea how I left school with GCSE's. I missed so much school not only as a result of my haemophilia but due to everything happening with my brothers. After [B1] and [B2] passed away, I would fake a bleed at least once a week when I felt like my mum was having a bad day because I wanted to be near her to make sure she was okay.
15. There would be the odd joke from the horrible kids at school but I was fortunate to have a close-knit group of friends who supported me at school.

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16. Unfortunately, I don't have too many happy memories of **B2** as I was so young when he died. The only real memories I have of him are from when he was ill.
17. One day I got into bed with **B1** to give him a cuddle and sleep next to him as I thought he was just asleep, unaware that he had actually passed away. That is something that has proved difficult for me to get over.
18. I met my wife when I was **GRO-B** years old. We had worked together for a while before we got together so she already knew what happened to my family. As **GRO-B** suffers from epilepsy, our first date consisted of her meeting my mum who had recently been diagnosed with epilepsy and talking to her about the condition.
19. To this day I speak on the phone to my mum 5-6 times a day. She will call me whenever she needs to talk about **B1** and **B2** the Public Inquiry or any money problems she has. Although I listen to her everyday, I have no one to talk to myself.
20. My life continues to be impacted by what happened to my brothers. I have continually had to make sure that my mum doesn't end her life and, as such, before I married my wife I had to tell her that she will always come second to Mum.
21. My mum could never sustain a job because of her mental health and I have had to lend her thousands of pounds over the years. I have also had to leave jobs in the past where I haven't had the flexibility to go and look after her.
22. One of the big losses for me is that I will never have the opportunity to be an uncle because both of my siblings fell victim to this tragedy. It is something I think about every single day.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

23. I do not remember being offered counselling later on in life. When I was younger there was a social worker for haemophiliacs linked to the hospital who would take us on trips and would be there to talk to us if we needed, but there was no organised counselling per se.
24. I am someone who keeps everything in my head because I can't let my mum see how all of this has affected me.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

25. I received the Stage One Payment from the Skipton Fund.

Section 8. Other Issues

26. There is not a day that goes by that the contaminated blood scandal doesn't have some involvement in my life. We have waited so long for this Inquiry and I just want justice and answers for my mum and everyone else who has suffered loss.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

27. I would like some areas of my statement to be redacted.

28. I would be willing to stand up and give oral evidence alongside my mum if she wanted to speak at the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

GRO-B

Dated.....

30/3/2020