

Witness Name: Robert **GRO-B**

Statement No.: WITN2258015

Exhibits: none

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

---

### **THIRD WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ROBERT **GRO-B****

---

I provide this supplementary statement following my first and second written statements which were provided in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018, to provide further information which may be relevant to the Inquiry.

1. Since giving my earlier two statements, I have been asked to go into more detail about my experience with litigation for my Hepatitis C.
2. The issue of being able to pursue a claim for compensation first came up when I was being treated at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The matter was raised by the medical team at the Haemophilia Unit at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. They said I could not sue for being given Hepatitis C through infected blood, and that no lawyer would take my case. I was advised that the infected blood may potentially be considered a medical error, however it would not be considered medical negligence. Further to this, I was advised that any claim or legal action was barred by the Government. There was no reason provided for this, there would be no litigation and no lawyer would touch these cases. The Haemophilia Unit at Glasgow Royal Infirmary provided no detail or reasons beyond this. I felt like they were saying "if you are thinking of litigating, don't bother as it won't happen." I do not recall being given any paperwork along with this information. It was clear that there was no place to

consider any form of compensation. I believe that this conversation happened in June or July 1998.

3. The medical team at the Haemophilia Unit at Glasgow Royal Infirmary were the only people, around the time of my diagnosis in 1999, that I discussed litigation with. The information was presented as a part of general discussion where it was stated that the government would not accept any claim against them for negligence once the NHS was mentioned. At this time, the NHS were to be considered innocent bystanders. This was prior to my involvement with Haemophilia Scotland.
4. Years after my diagnosis, as part of a group in Haemophilia Scotland, I was informed that attempts to apply for compensation had been dismissed and that no lawyer was willing to take the case on.
5. Around ten years post-diagnosis I recall phoning a No Win, No Fee Solicitor. I was advised that they were unwilling to take on the case. I explained my situation to the solicitors, and they apologised and explained that they would like to help but were unable to take the case on. I am of the view that no solicitor was willing to be responsible for these cases because it would be releasing a beast that no one knew how to control.
6. I was not in the position financially to litigate on my own and understood that I would have to find a No Win, No Fee solicitor to take my case. I approached one solicitor, whose name I do not recall, but it was made clear that this was not an area that they would ever willingly take on. This confirmed what I had been told by Glasgow Royal Infirmary.
7. I would have litigated if I had known that there was potential for the case to be taken on. However, I was advised that this was not going to happen and had been barred by The Government. I had to give up a very comfortable lifestyle to eventually become homeless. I am unable to retain a job due to fatigue and I had to take early retirement. I would have sued had I had the opportunity; I believe that financially I have lost millions of pounds because of my diagnosis and the required treatment. I struggled to cope financially. If I had money, I would have been better able to survive.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-C  
Date Sep 22, 2022