

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN2836001

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B** ON BEHALF OF  
**GRO-B: B1**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018. 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 have been asked to write a statement about my brother **B1** **B1** diagnosis and how he was infected with hepatitis C (HCV), which he contracted from multiple blood transfusions in the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's. In particular the impact this had on him and me as his sister.

### 2.How Infected

1. **B1** was born with severe haemophilia A. My older brother **GRO-B: B2** **B2** was also born with the same condition. Our eldest brother, who lives abroad, didn't have haemophilia. I can remember our doctor advising me not to have any children. I agreed with him as I didn't want to be responsible for

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passing on a most painful and devastating disease to the next generation. The chances were very high. I was tested much later to see if I was a carrier and the results were inconclusive.

2. [B1]'s condition meant a knock on a joint could cause a bleed in the joint which was severely painful. Internal bleeding also caused great pain. This usually resulted in frequent admittance to [GRO-B] Hospital in [GRO-B] [GRO-B] Hospital and [GRO-B] Hospital both in [GRO-B] to have blood transfusions.

3. [B1] was fitted with a Hickman Line in the late [GRO-B] to facilitate self treatment. He was aware when a bleed was imminent and could prepare Factor VIII and/or Cryoprecipitate for injection. This was a huge milestone for him.

4. I am unsure as to when [B1] was infected with hepatitis C (HCV), as I didn't find about it until 2002. However, after reading his medical notes I do know [B1] was informed of this in [GRO-B] [B1] would sometimes be jaundiced from as early as the [GRO-B]

### 3. Other Infections

1. [B1] was told that he was at risk of contracting vCJD.

### 4. Consent

1. I am not sure if [B1] was asked for consent for any blood transfusion or whether any risks were discussed with him prior to this.

### 5. Impact

1. [B1] suffered with his joints and couldn't walk very far. He did break his leg in his teens and this didn't help with his mobility. Our parents always had to care for [B1] and my brother [B2] I can recall our mother looking after [B1]

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right up until her last days. It was after her death, when I became [B1]'s main carer in [GRO-B]

2. [B1]'s Hickman line became infected around [GRO-B]. He was hospitalised for a long time. A disc was fitted under the skin. He could no longer self inject so I was shown how to do so. I was happy to save him a doctor call-out or visit to a hospital but administering the injections was a very stressful and difficult procedure for me. He would often be waiting for me to come home from work to give him the injection. Somehow I managed. Over time the disc got displaced and the doctors had to come to the house to administer the injections. If the doctor was unable to, the 'Out of hours doctor' would come any time between 7.00pm and midnight. It was also difficult for them and [B1] and I as they were unfamiliar with [B1]'s injection problems.

3. I can recall when [B1] became unwell in the [GRO-B]. His energy suddenly decreased considerably. He needed more care than ever and towards the end of the decade, he got significantly worse. I still have pictures in my head of him struggling to get to the kitchen for a meal. He would throw open the door and rest on his crutches before he could take another step. I was always very worried at this. I knew he had little energy but it was some time before I knew why. He was very tired, had no appetite and had to take rests after just taking a few steps when walking. In the late [GRO-B] he needed a motorised wheelchair.

4. [B1] was never able to work. He achieved a degree in [GRO-B] [GRO-B] but unfortunately wasn't ever able to practice this. He was strong mentally and was very good in a family crisis however he never wanted to discuss anything with me regarding his Hepatitis infection.

5. In [GRO-B] [B1] was taken very ill and he was admitted to the [GRO-B] Hospital in [GRO-B] where he was treated by Dr [GRO-B]. She showed me the results of [B1]'s liver X-rays and explained his condition in detail. [B1] was diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma. He had three months left to live. It was a sad drive home.

6. [B1] had a lovely personality and maintained this throughout his illness. He had a very strong character. His concentration would let him down a lot of the time but he would always bounce back to his lovely self.

7. I can remember overhearing a conversation between my two brothers about the CJD scandal and [B1] saying 'what more can we have?' My brother [B2] was now living with us as he too was infected with hepatitis C (HCV). I was now caring for both of them. [B2] came home in [GRO-B]

8. It was an exhausting time for me caring for both my brothers. My oldest brother lived abroad and only rarely managed to visit. There were no other family members to share the burden or to help with the driving on endless hospital visits. [B2] and [B1] were aware of the problems of hepatitis C (HCV) and were most supportive of each other. I believe they didn't want me to know because they knew I would worry. It was such a shock when I learned about their infection. I didn't really know anything else other than to care for my brothers, particularly [B1] as he always needed looking after and caring for from a very young age.

9. I have recently glanced over my brother's medical notes but I find it too upsetting to actually read them.

#### 6.Treatment/Care/Support

1. [B1] was a regular patient in hospital particularly during his early years. I am not sure if counselling or any support was offered to him when he became infected.

2. [B1] received excellent treatment from the hospital when he became poorly. I do know he went to a hospital in [GRO-B] twice for operations to straighten his legs which were crippled with constant joint bleeds. I had to accompany him on these journeys and stay a few days.

**7.Financial Assistance**

1. **B1** received incapacity benefits from Social Services. He got two tranches of financial assistance from the Skipton Fund. Stage 1 - £20,000 and Stage 2 - £50,000. This was arranged by the Skipton Fund and our Solicitor.

**8.Other Issues**

1. Why did they inflict this terrible infection on innocent people?

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed,

GRO-B

Dated

22/2/2019