

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**
Statement No: WITN2837001
Dated: 22nd February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12th 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** 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 younger brother **GRO-B: B2** **B2** was also born with the same condition. Our oldest

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brother didn't have haemophilia. I can remember our doctor advising me not to have any children. I agreed as I didn't want to be responsible for passing on a most painful and appalling 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 into 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. I am unsure as to when [B1] was infected with hepatitis C (HCV). I found out about it in [GRO-B] after learning about my other brother [B2]'s infection. I am also unsure as to when [B1] found out he had been infected with the hepatitis C (HCV) disease through contaminated blood. I think he may have contracted this infection around about [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] lived in [GRO-B] from around [GRO-B] to [GRO-B]. He worked for [GRO-B] [GRO-B] while studying [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] at the [GRO-B] [GRO-B] in the evening. He was awarded a [GRO-B] in [GRO-B]. He had to leave his job in the late [GRO-B] when his health deteriorated. He got an excellent reference from his boss. He moved to [GRO-B] where he tried to

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study at **GRO-B**. He made many friends at work and the Universities but he came home in **GRO-B** as he no longer had the energy to look after himself. **B1** was never able to work again. I think this impacted on him greatly as he had studied so hard and enjoyed his job and his colleagues. He had few friends left at home. He was very close to his brother **B2** but his concentration became very poor.

2. **B1** would often get depressed because he could no longer look after himself. He resented his loss of freedom and his outlook on life was sad. During the **GRO-B** he developed mental health problems. He was used to being able to go out and about independently and travel around **GRO-B** and **GRO-B** but could no longer do this. Looking back on reflection I think he became depressed because of the hepatitis C (HCV). It ruined his life. Before **B1** got ill he had a lovely personality, unfortunately due to his illness this impacted on him psychologically.
3. **B1** became quick tempered and this was often wearing for me at the time. His mind went after he had a brain haemorrhage and was subsequently sent for rehabilitation at the **GRO-B** in **GRO-B**.
4. Looking after **B1** I can recall how poorly he was. He was always very tired and had no energy. I got a chaise made for him as he needed to lie rather than sit. **B1** was susceptible to a lot of infections including sepsis. It was hard for me to look after him and after 22 years of doing so **B1** went into a home for nursing care as a result of vascular dementia caused by a brain haemorrhage. He passed away in **GRO-B**.
5. I can remember overhearing a conversation between my two brothers about the CJD scandal and **B2** saying 'what more can we have?'. I was caring for them both as they were very poorly.
6. After my parents died in **GRO-B** and **GRO-B** became my brother's sole carer. It was an exhausting time for me. There were no other family members to share

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the worry or help with the driving on endless hospital visits. My two brothers were a great support for each other and discussed their problems. I know now that [B1] didn't want me to be aware of the devastating effect hepatitis C (HCV) had on his health. He wanted to save me from the worry. It was such a shock when I learned about the infection. I didn't really know anything else other than to care for my brother.

7. 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 was informed he was infected.
2. I am aware [B1] went to the Haemophilia Centre hospital in [GRO-B] for treatment. He had an operation to improve a deformed ankle.
3. When he was very ill [B1] spent long periods of time in the [GRO-B] Hospital and later [GRO-B] Hospital under the care of the late Dr [GRO-B] and her successor Dr [GRO-B]. He received excellent care there. Our local doctors were very attentive and Social Services were helpful.

7.Financial Assistance

1. [B1] received two tranches of financial assistance from the Skipton Fund. Stage 1 - £20,000 and Stage 2 - £50,000. This was arranged by 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