

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**  
Statement No.: WITN3981001  
Exhibits: WITN3981002-008  
Dated: **30 April 2020**

## 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 17 January 2020.

I, **GRO-B** will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is **GRO-B** My date of birth is **GRO-B** 1957 and my address is known to the inquiry. My maiden name is **GRO-B**
2. I grew up in London but later moved to Berkshire. I worked previously as a business travel consultant and in this role, I met my husband **GRO-B** We met on a business trip abroad and initially had a long-distance relationship.
3. We moved to Gloucestershire in 1993 and at this point I started a new career as a complementary therapist. However **GRO-B** died suddenly in 2001 and so I am now a widow. I currently work from home and am self-employed.

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4. I intend to speak about my infection with Hepatitis C, which I contracted as a result of a blood transfusion I received after a gynaecological operation. In particular, the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment I received and the impact it had on me.
5. I am not legally represented and do not wish to apply for anonymity. I am happy to be named as the infection is something that was inflicted on me so there is nothing for me to be ashamed about.

### **Section 2. How Infected**

6. The only possible source of my infection with Hepatitis C was through contaminated blood, that I was given during one of two major surgeries I have had for gynaecological issues.
7. I experienced heavy periods since my early teenage years and as a consequence I suffered with severe period pain. Even when I didn't have a period, I would still get bowel and back pain. Over the years, I went to see many doctors and specialists and had many diagnoses. Generally, it was mis-diagnosed as irritable bowel syndrome, which commonly happens.
8. I was finally diagnosed with endometriosis in 1986, by keyhole surgery at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. This keyhole investigation I remember very well.
9. Long before the diagnosis in 1986, I remember I had a diagnosis of anaemia, when I was quite young, in my early 20's. This was due to the long periods I was experiencing. Endometriosis is a disease that runs in the family, as my mum and aunt suffered the same.
10. In March 1987, I went to stay with GRO-B and he could see that I was getting worse. I was in such agonising pain that it even caused me to collapse. The pain was debilitating and I had previously been seen at

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hospital for this issue and had been given a follow-up appointment, but I was going downhill rapidly.

11. Due to this rapid decline in my health, it was arranged for me to see a Mr **GRO-B**. He was known to **GRO-B** having delivered **GRO-B**'s children in his previous marriage.
12. I was seen by Mr **GRO-B** in March 1987 as an emergency, under private health insurance (**See Exhibit WITN3981002**). Initially, I was insured with BUPA through my job and then I took out a personal policy with them.
13. Mr **GRO-B** was fully booked on his private list and so he transferred me to the NHS list at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield (**See Exhibit WITN3981003**). Mr **GRO-B** said he had 'bumped' a cardiac hysterectomy patient to do my emergency surgery as I was in such a bad way.
14. I had a laparotomy and left oophorectomy to remove my left fallopian tube on 20 March 1987. I do have some of my medical notes from this operation and it states that I was cross matched for blood but it doesn't confirm that I was transfused (**See Exhibit WITN3981004**). It shows intent but it does not prove I had the transfusion.
15. When I was in hospital for this operation, by coincidence, a friend called **GRO-** was also in the NHS hospital in early labour. **GRO-B** came and sat with me and I had just been told that I was unlikely to be able to have children, which was hard because she was sitting there with her bump.
16. From looking at the notes, I was in hospital for 10 days. I have a massive scar that runs along the full length of my stomach. It is so large because the Surgeon had to do a lot of cutting due to the amount of tissue that had grown, as a result of the endometriosis, and was stuck to my bowels and ovaries.

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17. I later went to see GRO-B at her home after she had her baby. GRO-B said my colour had been transparent before the operation and I looked much better after I had the transfusion, when she came to see me on the ward. She had been a medical nurse and would have known what the set up for a blood transfusion was. I recently found a photo of me holding her baby and I was so thin. The baby was called GRO-B and she had her whilst I was in hospital. Unfortunately, we have lost touch as she was a friend through GRO-B's family.

18. I remember speaking to Mr GRO-B on the ward about 5/6 days after the operation in 1987. I do not directly remember the days immediately after the operation because I was on strong painkillers.

19. After 5 days though my recall is better, as I was not on these strong painkillers anymore. I spoke to Mr GRO-B and said to him that I was bleeding vaginally, which was worrying for me and he said that he was not surprised, as 'there was a lot of mess in there'. I often felt faint then and it is something that still affects me. I am still prone to fainting now, particularly in the morning.

20. Recovery from the operation was a long and hard process and I was off work for six months. Although I recovered from the actual operation in 1987, I was still poorly afterwards. There is a note written by Mr GRO-B's secretary to notify him that I was still not well, as my husband had called her up in September 1989 (**See Exhibit WITN3981005**).

21. I continued to have massively heavy, painful periods and I was prescribed a type of male hormone, used to stop periods. This led to me developing facial hair and deep voice due to the high dosage I was prescribed but my periods continued unabated and I was still bleeding profusely. It was evident that this treatment was not working.

22. I already knew I couldn't have children and so it was decided that the only way forward was to have a hysterectomy. In 02 February 1992 this

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operation went ahead in a BUPA private hospital, called **GRO-B** and I was admitted for about 8-10 days. It is actually now a Spire Hospital.

23. I thought I would recover quicker this time around but I felt so unwell and was so tired. There are no surgical notes at all from this operation. However, I do have a document evidencing that two units of blood were cross-matched and reserved for me **(See Exhibit WITN3981006)**.

24. I have been advised that this is not conclusive proof that these packs of blood were given to me because you would usually expect to see a signature confirming that a transfusion was given. This signature is usually present, as to make sure the clinician confirms they have checked the patients details against the pack of blood, to ensure that it is the correct person. Although I understand this, I believe it demonstrates the serious nature of the operation and the fact that the clinicians considered it likely that a blood transfusion may be required.

25. This surgery in 1992 was very complex due to the previous surgery I had undergone. I was in bed for a few days and was surprised when I first looked at the scar and realised how big it was. The scar was big due to the extra complexity.

26. I recently saw a gynaecologist for hormone replacement therapy (HRT). He was so rude, obnoxious and inappropriate during the appointment. However, even he, when he looked at the scar asked why the hell they cut me that wide. That made me think it was bigger than usual. He called it an extended excision.

27. I stayed with Mr **GRO-B** all the way through my aftercare and even after we moved away because I had such faith in him, so we used to travel up to see him. Therefore, I have written to Mr **GRO-B** to ask for my medical notes from the operation I had in 1992.

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28. I know that Mr **GRO-B** has now retired and I have not received any response from him. I did not say in the letter the reason behind me wanting my notes, as I did not want to upset him. I am still hopeful that I may hear from him but I think that he is now receiving homecare which suggests he is probably frail.
29. Both of my operations were extensive and invasive major surgeries and I had been very poorly leading up to both procedures. I can remember waking up from one of these two operations, looking to the left side and seeing a pole with a bag hanging from it. The tube that was connected to me from it contained a liquid that was red.
30. There was a big gap at the top of the bag where there was an air bubble and this is where the bag had emptied, leaving a little bit of liquid at the bottom.
31. My husband had bought me a stone frog, which was on the table next to me and I remember seeing this at that time. I had been given pethidine, which is a painkiller, and I was out of it due to this. I was really sleepy and sick. I can't remember which operation this occurred with.
32. I am not sure if this was the first or the second operation. I keep trying to remember but I can't. I was nauseous and very unwell because of the drugs. The only person who visited me was **GRO-B** my husband. **GRO-B**'s mother was alive but had dementia and so she did not visit me.
33. My mum and dad were in Somerset and in poor health so couldn't make the journey and I have no siblings. **GRO-B**'s children were not able to visit either, as his son lived in Holland and his daughter in Essex. This means that there is no one that can confirm which operation I was given the transfusion for.

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34. I have not been given a blood transfusion at any other point in my life. I have had other surgeries, such as a dilation and curettage (D&C) at Ashford Hospital in Middlesex, where they scraped the lining of my womb.
35. I have also had my wisdom teeth removed in Slough and was in a serious road accident as a child, where I went through the windscreen and had severe cuts. I remember going home that evening after the crash with my parents. I know that I did not receive a blood transfusion on any of these occasions.
36. I have never been an intravenous drug user and actually I am needle phobic and so have never been a blood donor. I had a pulmonary embolism 18 months ago and I had to inject myself in my tummy for a few weeks which was the worst feeling ever for me. I had to have a drink of wine beforehand to be able to do it.
37. I have only ever had three sexual partners and I have only had my ears pierced once when I was 16 years old. I went to a very reputable place and they sterilised everything. I don't have any other piercings and I do not have any tattoos.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

38. After I found out I had been infected with Hepatitis C, I spoke to Susan at the Hepatitis C Trust and she advised me to contact my GP and to go in for more bloods. When I went to see my GP, she was shocked and said it never crossed her mind that I could be infected with Hepatitis C.
39. My GP has now tested me for HIV and HBV and these results were both negative. Therefore, I am not aware of any other infections that I have been given as a result of the blood transfusion I received.

**Section 4. Consent**

40. I have always consented to the treatment I have been given. I have a copy of the consent form I signed for my first operation in March 1987 (See Exhibit WITN3981007). This states that I consented to further or alternative operative measures as may be found to be necessary.
41. However, I was not given a prior warning or told about any dangers that could occur as a result of any blood transfusion that I may require. I don't recall any mention of a warning that my husband was given either.
42. I found out that I had been infected with Hepatitis C when taking part in a drug trial (see section 6 for more details). When I went in for screening in relation to this trial, I signed lots of consent forms and I knew they were taking my blood to test for Hepatitis C.

**Section 5. Impact**

43. After the operation in 1992, GRO-B and I were planning our wedding and honeymoon and we considered postponing the wedding, as I felt so unwell. I couldn't get out of bed in the morning I was so fatigued, completely drained and I even had people ask me if I was depressed.
44. We had decided to move to GRO-B and we were going to have such an exciting new life. Everything was in front of us but when we moved, I was exhausted. Always tired in the extreme and I was just down. This was a difficult and emotional time in my life but a bit of a rollercoaster because I had just been told that I couldn't have children but at the same time, I had also just met the love of my life and so there were both positives and negatives to reflect on.
45. I was really unwell on our wedding day, which was GRO-B months after the hysterectomy, on GRO-B I suffered substantial weight loss after the hysterectomy, prior to the operation my weight was fine.



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46. My husband didn't understand why I said I felt so not right. I was very thin to the point of gauntness and I had no energy at all and fainting was a common occurrence. That said, it was a very happy marriage despite the fact I was always tired.
47. I went to the doctors a few months after [GRO-B] died, to see a nurse for a smear test I think. After returning home, a receptionist phoned to ask me to come in to see a doctor. The nurse had commented on how thin I was and I was told to see Dr. [GRO-B] that afternoon.
48. She did do some blood tests at the time and I remember there was concern regarding diabetes but that was normal. My GP prescribed me some Ensure high calorie drinks to make me put on weight but they didn't work.
49. My GP also referred me to the dietician in [GRO-B] in 2007 because I was so thin. They conducted basic routine blood tests and didn't find anything wrong.
50. Now looking back, I believe that many symptoms that I have experienced over the years can now be attributed to the Hepatitis C. I have obtained my GP medical record, which evidences that I suffered with fatigue, depression and insomnia (**See Exhibit WITN3981008**). Although I had medical problems as indicated, none of these were symptoms that I experienced at any stage prior to my first major operation.
51. The depression first started really problematically in 2005. I went on antidepressants and had an appointment with the mental health team. This was about 5 years post [GRO-B]'s demise. Albeit his death was sudden and unexpected I do not believe it was the sole cause of my slipping into a state of depression.
52. I saw a good counsellor in [GRO-B] and this was very useful. After [GRO-B]'s sudden death, amongst other things it brought up issues around not being able to have children. We found each other and we

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both had unhappy first marriages and suddenly I was widowed at 43 and I did not have a husband or any children. It was a kind of double whammy.

53. I have battled hard because I have had to manage this all on my own. My only relative, an elderly cousin lives in Somerset and is in her 80's. I never thought I would be windowed. When **GRO-B** died, he was working from home and I was training to be a therapist.

54. I was three months from my exams and he went to make a coffee and died on the kitchen floor. Suddenly I went from a comfortable lifestyle, to wondering if I should or indeed would be able to continue at college. I gave the money that resulted from **GRO-B**'s passing to his children and so I had to make a success of my business.

55. Although I have suffered from depression, I do not take any antidepressants now as I found the side effects were horrible.

56. I do not know if this is related but I have had cold sores for years. I also have glands in my arm pits that are swollen and I did go to the doctor to ask if I had some kind of virus and I was made to feel that I was a hypochondriac. Again, I wonder if these problems are a result of the infection. It would explain a lot.

57. I have also suffered with joint and muscle pain, which is on my medical records. This started in around the mid 1990s, as **GRO-B** and I had moved down here and were renovating the cottage. I kept getting back and neck ache and I just put this down to moving boxes and things. I was tired and thin and I think my iron count was low.

58. I was at a different surgery then and I don't have any of my notes from **GRO-B** in **GRO-B** would bring me breakfast in bed as I needed food to give me enough energy just to get me out of bed. I look at photos from this time and I was so stick thin.

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59. I also had severe pain around my gall bladder and liver. I was sent to have an ultrasound around 5-6 years ago. I was getting shooting pains through my ribs and the doctor thought it was gallstones. Nothing showed up on the scan and there is no damage to my liver. However, I was always advised to avoid alcohol from an early stage. I have never been a big drinker anyway but why such advice if there was no suspicion of possible damage?
60. My vision is ok but I do have brain fog. This is a known symptom of the menopause and so I put it down to this but now I wonder. I was given HRT a week after the hysterectomy operation, as your oestrogen and progesterone disappear. I increased my HRT slightly because I was feeling muddled and confused and usually I have good recall.
61. It didn't occur to me that this brain fog could be caused by Hepatitis C. I just thought it was the menopause and as a result of this I then upped the dose of HRT which caused me problems in itself as I've already mentioned. I didn't make any connection that it could be due to hepatitis, as why would I, but looking back it, all makes sense.
62. I saw my GP a lot because they thought these symptoms were due to the menopause. These were probably Hepatitis C symptoms instead. After a couple of years, I was still exhausted and having night sweats, something else I had never experienced before and the GP started me on implant pellets.
63. They put a pellet under the skin every 6 months but I continued to get night sweats and fatigue and we put it down the menopause. I still get terrible night sweats in the morning. I am drenched with sweat and I do not know why. To try to help this I used an oestrogen gel on my skin and I would also sleep on a bath towel.
64. As I have said my dose of HRT was increased to try to reduce the symptoms I was experiencing. However, endometriosis re-occurred about 3 years ago and this isn't meant to return after a hysterectomy.

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65. This high dose of HRT is most likely what has caused the endometriosis to return. I probably didn't need this high dose, as my symptoms were more than likely due to the Hepatitis C and not the menopause.
66. Additionally, I have been on sleeping pills for years and have terrible insomnia. I also get very itchy red dry skin on my hands, legs and shins. These areas at times are red raw. The nurse at the surgery told me to use a cream and she said it was just my age and dry skin. I didn't have any of these symptoms or problems prior to the operations. Consequently, I believe almost all of them may be a result of the Hepatitis C, especially with it lying undetected and therefore untreated for so long
67. My husband had rampant insomnia and when he died it was like we switched over. I have tried matters toppers, new mattresses and all sorts of other things. Up until the operation I used to sleep like a dormouse. My husband would say I could sleep on a clothesline.
68. Now I stay up late, as the later I stay up the more chance I have of sleeping. I now work from home and start work from 10 so I can catch up on some sleep – when I can drop off that is! I have evening clinics and so it works well for me. It enables me to support myself financially.
69. The mornings are really bad. I assumed the pregabalin I take made me tired but it probably isn't this that is causing it. I sit here at night scratching at my feet and legs due to the rash and this also stops me sleeping.
70. The way that I was told that I tested positive for Hepatitis C had a tremendous effect on me. It was about 4pm on a Friday when I got the call to inform me I was positive. I was shattered when I was told. Just dumbstruck. I was alone and I had clients coming in to see me that afternoon so I had to gather myself together but my mind kept slipping to what I had been told.

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71. I know that I live a considerable distance from London, where the trial is being conducted, and so practically it was hard for them to tell me in person but I did not wish to be given news like that over the phone. What's wrong with going through your GP? They had the details.
72. Then I had a really traumatic weekend, here, alone and in shock. I googled about Hepatitis C and rang a friend who used to be a nurse and she said to call the Hepatitis C Trust. I was kind of reassured but it is hard to get it out of your mind and the question of what it means for you going forward in life.
73. On the following Monday, I rang the Hepatitis C Trust and spoke to a very helpful and supportive lady called Susan. She was amazing and said everybody at the trust had been affected by Hepatitis C.
74. I associated this virus with someone who is a drug user. I immediately thought drugs, sex and rock and roll, none of which I had ever been a part of. It was only when I spoke to Susan and we figured out that it must have been the surgeries and blood transfusion that had infected me.
75. We had a full and frank conversation and she advised me that as I had never taken drugs, not had sex where both partners were bleeding, so the only source of transmission could have been via a transfusion. This is how I came to give this statement to the inquiry.
76. No one should be given bad news medically over the phone. The Research Clinic have taken that comment on board in a very good way actually. They phoned to tell me the news due to the distance but they should not call someone late on a Friday night to tell them something like this.
77. I felt intense guilt after my diagnosis thinking if I have put people at risk. I joined a tennis club and the first tennis lesson I split my eye open and blood was everywhere on the floor and people rushed towards me with tissues and to help.

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78. Also, I cut myself with a hedge cutter about 10 years ago and I went to my neighbour for help. After being told I had Hepatitis C, it is situations like this that you think about and I was worried I could have infected someone.
79. I also thought about people who have operated on me, for example the skin and hip surgeon. I have been going there with Hepatitis C and I didn't know. I have picked up people's babies and not thought about it.
80. I was advised by the Hepatitis C Trust that Hepatitis C is passed on by blood on blood contact and so I probably wouldn't have given it to anyone but this was my first thought. Susan, at the Trust, said it can only be passed on from very rough sex and I don't do that but it was my first thought. You can't help but feel a bit of guilt and worry about what might have happened despite what the experts say. It is human nature.
81. My stepchildren were 12, 14 and 16 when I met **GRO-B**. They were not that close to their Dad and so I did not have much contact with them either. I did spend a long time with my step grandchild **GRO-B** and I worried when I was first diagnosed that I could have passed it on without realising it.
82. I have some really nice friends and have shared my diagnosis with four girlfriends and they have been the best. There are two of my close friends that I have chosen not to tell.
83. This is because one has bad health anxiety as her husband was lost to cancer. The other one lost her husband to suicide and so I haven't told her either. They have enough to contend with. They wouldn't judge me though.
84. We are all really close and I have not felt any stigma. I was frightened and scared to tell people initially but they know I haven't used drugs.
85. I needed to check with my professional bodies to see if I had to notify people. However, I have been advised that as I do not use needles, I

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don't need to notify clients. I renewed my insurance on the 31 December 2019 and I didn't know then and so I need to ring them to let them know.

86. I will ring the insurance company anonymously first and see what they say but my professional bodies were absolutely fine. I am mortgage free and I don't have life insurance and so this hasn't been affected.

87. The very week this all happened, I was booking my first holiday with my girlfriends to Greece. We had a meeting last Sunday night to talk about this holiday and we were talking about insurance and my close friend **GRO-B** knows about the hepatitis. She said I should sort out my own insurance based on the pulmonary embolism I had. It did occur to me that insurance might be an issue.

88. Knowing about my hepatitis is on a need to know basis and anyone else doesn't need to know. However, I saw the chiropodist and he had my NHS notes and said I can see you had Hepatitis C. I understand that medical professionals need to have an awareness, I just hope it's discreetly noted.

89. We did discuss this a little but either way he would wear gloves and so it was fine. I will always be honest if someone is working on me with needles or blood, as I have a duty of care to say.

90. I would not say that my infection with Hepatitis C has financially impacted on me to a great extent. Over the years, I have had lots of time not working but when you are self-employed it is a good motivator.

91. I have got up and felt unwell but not known why but I tried to never cancel on clients. I have had to go back to bed some days and so have lost out on work. If I cancel clients I don't get money but any loss is difficult to quantify.

**Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

92. As a result of an accident falling down an entire flight of stairs, I required a double hip operation in 2016. I tore out the cartilage and due to this accident, I developed traumatic arthritis three years later. Additionally, this caused me to develop complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS).

93. CRPS is a condition that causes severe pain and is incurable. Actually, CRPS comes above cancer and amputation on the McGill Pain Scale. Before the accident I was always very active, despite my constant fatigue and independent. I don't have that anymore, as I am registered as disabled.

94. The epilepsy drugs they have given me for the CRPS have lots of side effects and I want to get off of these. Therefore, I enrolled in a private clinical drug trial, which has been approved by doctors.

95. The trial takes place at London St Pancras Clinical Research and for this I had routine pre-screening bloods on 18 December 2019 to see if I was suitable for a new drug to treat CRPS. As part of these bloods, all patients are screened for Hepatitis C as a matter of course. I was fully aware of this.

96. I was telephoned late in the afternoon on Friday 3 January 2020 by one of the doctors at the research centre. I was told that I had tested positive for Hepatitis C and they needed me back in to do more blood tests very quickly.

97. I don't know which doctor told me this news but he was a foreign sounding gentleman. It was as if I was drunk as I heard him say this and my heart started pounding and I started to sweat. I asked if he was sure as I didn't believe what I had just been told.



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98. I don't recall being given any information on precautions or what it would mean for me long term. That was probably because they wanted me in quickly for further tests.
99. I went back the following week to be seen at the clinic in London and had further blood tests with a lovely doctor. He said the results would be back quickly and that if the virus was still active, then they wouldn't be able to take me on for the drug trial. They rung the next day, to advise me that though I had tested positive for Hepatitis C, it is now not currently active. I tested positive because I will always have the antibodies.
100. Therefore, I never had to have any treatment for the hepatitis and luckily, I have been allowed to carry on with the trial. I have asked for notes from the Research Clinic but I have been told that due to the fact that it is a trial, I am enrolled in, they cannot hand stuff out.
101. However, they are sharing information with my GP. They ask you to sign a disclaimer so that they can share notes and phone calls with your GP. The GP has since tested my liver and this is fine. It has been recommended that I have ongoing monitoring every 6 months though.
102. For the trail, I go up to London on certain days and they do an ECG, neurological exam, urine test and check how many pills I have got. I don't know if I have the real drug or the placebo.
103. On every urine test, blood has shown up. They said there is a lot of blood in it and so I needed a referral. They have said that they couldn't comment if this is due to the Hepatitis C.
104. My urine also tested positive for nitrates and I received antibiotics for this from the GP. Through my private health insurance, I will get a referral to see if I have any underlying condition causing this urine abnormality.

105. I am going to need counselling after this because revisiting 1987 and 1992 takes me back to the time I found out my endometriosis meant I could not get pregnant and the devastation I felt then – those memories still have a profound affect me now.

106. I had mentally closed that door on this and due to the fact that GRO-B died in 2001, I do not have anyone at home to talk things through with.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

107. I was told by the Hepatitis C Trust that financial assistance may be available for me. However, I have not applied for anything yet as I am still trying to obtain my medical records, but I know my surgical records from February 1992 have been destroyed.

108. I have blood batch numbers but this does not prove conclusively that I received a blood transfusion (**See Exhibit WITN3981006**). I have been able to get some of my medical records through a receptionist at my GP surgery, who knew a receptionist somewhere else that was able to find the notes in storage. Additionally, my GP has pulled some old records and found a few notes from the private hospital.

109. If I am able to get hold of more medical records, that prove that I had a transfusion, I would consider applying for financial assistance.

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

110. I can only wish I had been diagnosed much sooner and received appropriate anti-viral treatment rather than battle on for decades with undiagnosed Hepatitis C, which has clearly taken an awful toll on me both physically and mentally. Looking back, I have suffered so many symptoms of Hepatitis C and still do. My own life may have been so much different if I had known and many of my problems could have been successfully tackled leading to an improved quality of life.

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111. My experience has not shaken my faith in the NHS as I have received excellent treatment on many occasions but it has led me to be more inquisitive about what I am being told and possibly less accepting of medical opinion than I once was.
112. Since my diagnosis, I have been supported throughout and this has all been very positive. But I would like to know when it was first known that people were getting infected with Hepatitis C. and why there has not been more done to highlight the problem.
113. I would like it to be known that I have had to close my business recently due to the coronavirus outbreak. I have not been advised to do so by my governing body and in fact could have continued my practice. However, I am very frightened. I am frightened because I believe that my immune system may be compromised through my infection with Hepatitis C and this may leave me vulnerable to the virus as well as any patient I subsequently have contact with. I do not wish to take any chances with my health or the health of others.
114. I have had the Consent Form explained to me and have signed it on the basis that it will only be submitted once my statement is signed.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. **GRO-B**

Signed **GRO-B**

Dated 30/4/2020

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## Schedule of Exhibits

WITN3981002	Letter from Mr. <b>GRO-B</b> to Dr. <b>GRO-B</b> dated 18 <sup>th</sup> March 1987, regarding an operation planned for 19 <sup>th</sup> March 1987.
WITN3981003	Document evidencing care transfer from private to NHS at Good Hope Hospital dated 19 <sup>th</sup> March 1987.
WITN3981004	Pre-operative recovery sheet from operation dated 20 <sup>th</sup> March 1987.
WITN3981005	Letters between Mr. <b>GRO-B</b> and his secretary dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> September 1989.
WITN3981006	Spire Healthcare Pathology Report dated 27 <sup>th</sup> January 1992, detailing two units of blood reserved.
WITN3981007	Form of consent for operation treatment from North Birmingham Health Authority dated 19 <sup>th</sup> March 1987.
WITN3981008	<b>GRO-B</b> patient summary dated 27 <sup>th</sup> December 2019, detailing the care provided to <b>GRO-B</b> .