Witness Name: GRO-B
Statement No.: WITN6475001
Dated: 10.09 2021

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 15 July 2021.

I, GRO-B will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B My date of birth is GRO-B 1980 and I reside in a village on the outskirts of GRO-B

2. I am a mild haemophiliac. I have haemophilia A. It is a hereditary condition: my brother is also a mild haemophiliac and my grandad (who has now passed away) was one too. I intend to speak about my infection with hepatitis C ("HCV") that I got as a result of treatment with blood products at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. In particular, I will speak about the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment I received and the impact it had on my life and my family.

3. I am married and I have two children. My son is six years old and my daughter will turn five soon.

4. I am a self-employed graphic designer. I set up my own company about ten years ago and as a result of living in GRO-B I have worked with a variety of clients across branding, marketing and advertising projects.

Section 2. How Infected

5. I was diagnosed as a mild haemophiliac at birth at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Soon before my birth, my grandad – by pure chance – bumped into his treating clinician, Audrey Dawson, who was then the head of the Haemophilia Unit at Aberdeen. My Grandfather was on his way to see my mum in the labour ward. Audrey, realising that there was a chance I maybe born with Haemophilia immediately took steps to let the labour ward know I should have my clotting factor level checked and monitored, although by that time I had already been delivered using forceps, which thankfully didn't result in any issues. Audrey noted in a letter dated GRO-B, 1980 'I did not know about this pregnancy or delivery'.

6. I was never put on home treatment because we lived just a few minutes away from the hospital. I was given treatment with blood products whenever I needed it – usually that was when I bashed or bruised myself as a kid. To begin with, up until I was 15 years old I was treated with Factor 8 and Cryoprecipitate, but predominantly Factor 8 after looking at my treatment history extract from the UK National Haemophilia Database.

7. My medical notes state that in 1987, my parents and I were informed about the risks associated with my treatment. My parents do not recall that happening, and my parents say that if it did, it was only mentioned in passing rather than as a serious concern or risk to my health if I continued to be treated with blood products. They were definitely never explicitly told that if I continued with this treatment, there was a risk that I could be infected with HIV or hepatitis C. In that respect, the medical staff did not do what was clinically or morally right withholding information about the dangers posed by the treatment for my

Haemophilia. And I do wonder if that is the case that the medical professionals did mention the risks why did they wait until 1987 before mentioning it considering the risks of being exposed to HIV/Hep C were clearly evident long before this date.

8. The first mention in my medical notes of non A, non B hepatitis was in a letter dated 16 May 1988 from Dr King (my haematology doctor at Ward 4 Sick Kids Aberdeen) to Dr GRO-B (my GP). My parents do not think they were informed about this at this point but only at a later date was the topic mentioned to my parents.

9. The first time it was confirmed in my medical notes that I was infected was in a letter from Dr King to Dr GRO-B dated 22 June 1988. It states that my liver inflammation was most likely caused by non-A, non-B hepatitis.

10. When my parents were informed in 1988 at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary I had contracted non-A, non-B hepatitis, they mentioned to Dr King that they thought I could have been infected during a trip to the north of England when we visited the Lake District on Holiday in 1987. I had to attend Carlisle where I received treatment with blood products at Cumberland Infirmary for a bleed in my knee. After they were informed of my diagnosis they were incredibly shocked and upset I had contracted non-A, non-B hepatitis. My parents understood the ramifications of the condition because my grandfather had hepatitis B and non-A, non-B Hepatitis, although I am unsure of exactly when my grandad's non-A, non-B Hepatitis diagnosis was confirmed. Interestingly, my grandad said to my mum at the beginning of the 1980s "the hospitals were buying in skid-row blood from America, dirty blood. It can't be good for me."

11. I do not know the exact date when I was infected with hepatitis C. I got in touch with the National Haemophilia Database to get my treatment history but there is nothing there that sticks out as the definite source of infection. Looking at my NHD database records I received a mix of

Factor 8 and Crypercipitate from 1981 to 1995 before being moved to DDAVP in 1996. From there until 2020 I received a mix of DDAVP, Kogenate, Desmopressin and Refacto AF.

Section 3. Other Infections

12. I do not believe I was infected with any other infections other than HCV as a result of my treatment with blood products.

13. In the late 1990s I received a letter informing me that someone who donated blood that I might have subsequently received went on to develop vCJD. That letter came like a bolt out of the blue – there was no forewarning. They said they do not know what's going to happen. It makes me worry now that something else might be found in the blood in the future. I worry in particular for my daughter for when she has kids, if they too are haemophilia carriers, what the next 'bad blood scandal' will be for her and potentially her kids.

Section 4. Consent

14. It is hard to know whether I was tested for anything without my consent as doctors, nurses would take blood at any given time of the day or night when I was attending the hospital for treatment. Blood being taken was very normal, under the assumption the blood was being tested to check clotting factor levels to see if treatment was working. Dr King in a letter to Dr GRO-B dated 16th of May 1988 mentioned 'Tests for hepatitis B was negative. His liver function tests are mildly deranged. It may be he has developed non A non B hepatitis Subsequent to infusion therapy. I have not discussed this with the parents as the results came back after his discharge. Liver function tests will be repeated at the clinic." There are references in my medical notes where we were definitely invited to take part in tests for new kinds of Factor VIII in the early 1990s. For example, on 15 December 1992, I was invited to take part in a study of a new Factor VIII treatment.

15. I don't believe my parents knew I was being tested for diseases such as HCV and HIV. They were never made aware that any blood samples taken from me would be tested for viruses or infections until they received a letter on 13th of June 1988 from Dr King to my parents to say that Dr King had checked some tests that had been done my liver which showed some minor inflammation and that going forward I should inform my GP when visiting that I should get my blood tested to check my liver. No mention of non-A, non-B hepatitis in this letter. It was only the 21st of June 1988 that my parents were informed by Dr King that because of abnormalities with my liver and recent tests for Hep B and HIV that my liver condition was most likely caused by non A, non-B Hepatitis. To the best of my parent's knowledge this was the first time they had explicitly been informed I had been tested for Hepatitis or HIV. At this meeting they were not informed of the possible prognosis or potential health implications as per the letter dated 22 June 1988 from Dr King to my GP Dr GRO-B

16. I was also not aware of being tested for the Parvovirus. In a letter dated 8th of May 1989 from Dr Audrey Dawson to my GP, Dr. GRO-B the letter states "The results of the Parvovirus studies are now available and show that GRO-B has a positive igG…" I was never made aware of this test nor were my parents, having asked them they cannot recall ever being asked about a Parvovirus test. In fact when I mentioned it to my mum she said 'it's a virus found in dogs, they definitely never mentioned you were being tested for that, as that would have stuck in my memory."

Section 5. Impact

17. As a child, I was a bit jaundiced. My parents and doctors used to keep an eye on it. Generally speaking, especially when compared to other haemophiliacs, I was a relatively healthy child and looking at my medical notes probably had less visits to the hospital than other Haemophiliacs, even though I wasn't on any home treatment. So growing up with the insight of what my grandad had been through as a

Haemophiliac, how he managed his treatment/condition plus my mum and dad, my mum is like a medical encyclopaedia, my Haemophilia was a condition that I and my family managed.

18. I think that as a result of the interferon treatment, my hands shake a little bit, just a small tremor. Sometimes I have 'brain fog' and it can be difficult to focus on anything for long periods of time. I would say it comes and goes. One minute I can be focused on a job and the next I lose all interest and concentration. Although I cannot say with certainty that this is attributable to hepatitis C, it is most definitely a possibility as it's a well-document side-effect. I have a slight numbness in my right thigh around the area where I would inject my Interferon, it's often numb to the touch along with some hair loss on both my thighs where I would inject. During my first course of treatment when I was 16 years old my mum said I became very withdrawn and didn't go out much over the course of the summer 1996, that I definitely wasn't my usual self.

19.I postponed my first course of treatment as I was doing my Standard Grade exams. Even the worry about the treatment was overwhelming itself, especially because I saw what had happened to my grandfather because of how the Hepatitis C was impacting his life. It was a horrendous experience watching my beloved grandfather slowly turning yellow and see his health deteriorate up until his death in GRO-B 1997. The mental scars of losing my grandfather and the implications of his Hepatitis C and B, left a massive dark cloud over myself and my mum and my grandmother.

20. There were extra barriers to overcome in relationships. My first full, proper relationship was with a girl training to be an occupational therapist. I went with her as I advised her it would be wise for her to get a Hep C test as a precaution. In the doctor's office he flippantly asked me if I was a 'junkie' because of my condition. I told him it happened through contaminated blood and he just quickly moved on. On the whole, some partners understood my condition so it wasn't an issue but others were quite sceptical about it. It's one thing to tell someone you

have a hereditary blood condition, that your blood doesn't work but to then have to add 'oh I also have Hep C' was always a difficult subject to talk about with new people.

21. I remember my parents telling me that if I get cut at school, I should let my teachers know that I have hepatitis C. When I was 13 or 14, I cut myself in an art class and I told the teacher that I would clean up the blood myself as I had HCV. Another student in the class must have overheard, because the next thing I knew, I was being called 'AIDS boy' and other derogatory or homophobic slurs. This continued for a few months and it had a massive impact on me growing up. I never mentioned it to my teachers or parents because I was embarrassed. It affected my confidence. At the same time, it made me a more resilient person as I learned to deal with traumatic things like this.

22. It definitely had an impact on my results at school. The bullying and teasing knocked my confidence as a person. It affected me to the extent that it even crossed my mind that I should kill myself. I never told my mum and dad about that. I was only 13, 14 at the time. Everything taken together put a lot of pressure on me, I was left worrying about what my future would hold. I was worried about whether I would have a normal relationship and whether anyone would ever love me. I was also aware of the impact Hep C was having on my grandfather, having developed medical complications and eventually colon cancer combined with his Haemophilia, Hep B and Hep C, he was starting to show signs of severe Hep C infection - looking more jaundiced, tired.

23. After I left college, I started work as a graphic designer. I told my line managers from the outset that I had haemophilia but not hepatitis C. After about 2 years, I told my line managers about my HCV infection. After doing that, some of the older staff definitely changed their attitude to me. For example, I used to work until midnight and would be offered a lift into town after work by other staff members. After telling my line managers about my condition I was never offered a lift into town even though most of the staff lived in town or drove past town. I was also given the less interesting projects at work. I feel the attitudes to me from

some of the older members of staff changed totally within a few weeks. I felt I was being shunned by some of the older members of staff. There was distinct change and tangible shift in people's attitudes and how I was treated after I told them about hepatitis C. That went on for about two years. And to be fair no one ever raised it with me, asked me about it or were nasty to me. It was a real shame I had to find a new job. I was good at what I did. I worked extremely hard and was never scared of a challenge or taking responsibility for my work. I always went above and beyond to help my employer as I was brought up to work hard.

24. In 2005, I got a new job. Similar to my last job, I told them about my haemophilia but didn't tell them about hepatitis C initially. I eventually told my boss about 6-8 months into my interferon treatment that I had hepatitis C. I was fearful the same thing would happen again. Initially, he was fine with it. Then, things started to change a couple of weeks later - I felt history was starting to repeat itself. All of a sudden, I was given the trivial work to do (even though there was someone junior to me). For example, I had to answer phone calls when usually the most junior person used to do it. Nothing was ever explicitly said, but I did feel how I was treated in front of the other employees by my boss changed. There were times when things would be said by my boss that would be said to undermine me or personal digs about any manner of topics that were being discussed in the office - work related or general topics. One example was when I questioned why my pay was late as it had meant I'd missed a mortgage payment which I sent to my boss in an email as I didn't want to make a big deal about it in front of the other staff. The boss responded with an email to say he was extremely disappointed in my attitude and berated me for daring to question why my pay was late, suggesting that I should see about moving my direct debits if it was such a big deal. I believe this change in attitude towards me was a direct result of mentioning my Hep C. When I mentioned my Hep C to my other colleagues they were sympathetic, understanding and above all their attitudes towards me didn't change. I never took a day's sick leave during my Interferon treatment. No matter how I was feeling the day after my injection, I would go to work. This is despite the

fact that there were mornings where I had to literally crawl out of bed or had been shaking uncontrollably throughout the night. I was determined to continue to work hard, keep my boss and clients happy and keep an income coming into my household.

25. It is one of these things you learn to accept. You have to overcome so many barriers with other people. Looking back, I realise those things had a massive impact on me. My thinking at the time was, no one else, or very few people in the medical profession in regard to Hep C had ever shown concern for me, so I needed to take care of myself and accept my circumstances - you had been infected with Hep C, no one cares, man up and get on with it. Mental Health and all the emotions and feelings of losing my grandad, being infected with Hep C as an innocent child simply being taken to hospital for treatment, the arrogance and ignorance of politicians who refused to acknowledge or accept any responsibility for what happened. My wife says I do suffer from mood swings one minute I can be happy and the next I can get angry or seem very distant. I believe a lot of the anger I feel in my life is a direct result of how I and my family have been treated over the years by politicians and medical professionals in relation to the Hep C, losing my grandad to the condition definitely had a massive negative impact on my life.

26. Financially, it has had an impact on me. I think part of the reason I became self-employed is because I realised career progression in my previous job would be difficult. By then I was clear of hepatitis C, so I felt free from some of the barriers I believe Hep C would have caused trying to start my own business still infected with the virus. Having cleared the virus after my treatment I slowly built the confidence to start my own business with the encouragement of my wife. In addition, when I bought my flat with my partner, we got life insurance. My policy was around £45 per month whereas it was only £15 per month for my wife. I suspect that was because of my Heamophilia and my Hep C.

27. I only began to properly process what happened to me as an adult, more so when my kids were born and especially when I turned 40. I

didn't ever know if I would live long enough to have kids or see my 40th birthday. Things catch up on you. You feel a lot of guilt about what happened and for surviving, especially when you read other people's harrowing stories. I am one of the lucky ones: I've had a career, I started a family and I cleared the hepatitis C after my Hep C treatment. But there are others who lost absolutely everything, including entire generations of their family. It's something you normally hear people mention on documentaries about plane crashes or big disasters, survivors guilt. It's something I feel a lot, more so as I learn, read and hear the stories of other people infected, impacted and affected by the tainted blood scandal.

28. As I grew older, I started to connect the dots about everything that happened. That process affected my mental health greatly. I think I am a totally different person because of the hepatitis C. I am angry about what happened to me and my grandfather. I feel a lot of guilt about what my parents have had to endure. For example, I feel guilty that my mum had to watch her dad die and then had to suffer the torment of wondering would she have to watch me go through the same process and one day face an early grave.

29. What happened to me as a young person shaped me, but not always for the better I think my anxiety, shyness and lack of confidence can be attributed to what I endured as a child. I don't like being around big groups and I hate public speaking. Although I have a good group of friends, most of them I've now known for 25 years. They've always just accepted me for me.

30. It also had a massive impact on my family. My mum and dad suffered a lot of guilt and anguish about what the future would hold for me. They had to live with the fact that they had taken me to hospital for treatment and all of sudden being told that their son had non-A non-B hepatitis. They were so angry that a child could go to hospital for help but be infected with a disease that could kill him. Everything was made more painful for mum because she could see the parallels between my grandad and me. My mum has been the worst affected out of all of my

family. Three of her cousins also had hepatitis C.

31. My grandad died at 71. My grandma died 10 years later. But my mum says that my grandma gave up on life after he died. Losing her husband is something she never got over. Losing my grandad, who was my best friend growing up, also left me heart broken. I had at times literally been in the treatment room with him at the hospital when he was needing treatment, helped him make up the factor 8 doses that would eventually one day play a part in his death. I sat and helped him make up the tainted blood products, mixing the solution with the powder, rolling it around in her hands to warm it up... we were sitting laughing and joking whilst we made up the tainted treatment.

32 My wife is always worried about my health and what the future holds for us. She had to deal with the worry about whether we could start a family. Even now – after being cleared of HCV – she worries about it reappearing. Or she worries that we will be told that I was infected with something else too. I think it takes a very special kind of person to be with someone who has haemophilia or hepatitis C – they have to deal with the stigma too. I know of others who have lost relationships or marriages because of the stress and pressures that these health conditions give rise to. We had to put starting a family on hold due to my Hep C treatment for the course of the treatment and then two years after for fear of the baby being born with issues related to my treatment. It was about 3 years before we could talk about starting a family properly and I know during this time my wife was eager to start a family but we just simply couldn't risk it due to the side effects of the interferon treatment and what that could mean for a baby. When we eventually did try for a family it took almost a year to conceive and sadly we had a miscarriage. It plays on my mind from time to time if losing the baby had anything to do with my treatment but I'll never know.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

33. At the beginning of July 1996, I started treatment with a course of interferon for six months. It was administered via one injection per week in the stomach. Unfortunately the course of treatment failed and I don't recall having any treatment after that for a long time.

34. Between 1996 and 2008, I did not have any treatment for HCV. On 24 August 1999, a letter from Dr Watson to Dr GRO-B discussed the possibility of starting a new interferon treatment with ribavirin. However, it wasn't a suitable time for me as I was beginning my second year at college.

35. On 20 September 2006, Dr Watson wrote me a letter advising me of the possibility of a new recombinant interferon treatment. In 2008, I started a course of recombinant interferon lasting 12 months. I had 3 injections a week and 20 tablets. During the treatment, I developed a thyroid problem. My weight dropped and I started to shake uncontrollably. As a result, I was also on a course of thyroid treatment for 18 months and beta blockers. The interferon treatment was not a nice experience at all although throughout it all I continued to work full time and used my lunch breaks for attending medical appointments. At one point I was on about 24 tablets a day plus 3 injections a week. During this 18 month period whenever I would attend a check-up I was asked how I was feeling I would always just say 'good, fine' never complained. I just got on with it no matter how bad I felt.

36. My family had a number of issues with Dr Dawson. On one occasion my grandad told Audrey Dawson that he did not react well to cryoprecipitate and needed to move to Factor VIII. She disagreed and he was still given cryoprecipitate. As a result, he suffered an adverse reaction and a crash cart was called into the room as it appeared my grandad had suffered from a heart attack and would need to be resuscitated. Another example is when my grandad had surgery to remove some polyps from his colon which were cancerous. According to what my family were told and from what my Grandad told us as well Audrey Dawson decided to cut his Factor VIII 4 days after his surgery. As a result, my grandad nearly bled to death internally and had to have

an emergency operation to save his life which left him with most of his intestine removed and a stoma. I always felt her bedside manner left a lot to be desired. My mum also worried about how I and my brother would be treated as we grew older and needed more treatment. We had the upmost respect and love for the NHS, as a family whose contact with it was part of our family's regular routine. We never complained, but at times we did feel that at times there was a severe lack of compassion towards my grandad at times even once when my grandad was removed from the heamotology ward because he dared go outside the hospital for his cigarette, only to return to the ward to be told he was being moved to a regular ward as the sister was annoyed he had went outside for a cig against her wishes. When my grandad was last in hospital we knew something wasn't right. I went with my grandmother to ask the doctor when my grandad could get home. The doctor took us into a storage cupboard and told us 'Sorry your husband only has 3 days left to live'. It was an absolute thunderbolt to be told this in such a harsh and cruel way. No sympathy. No care. Literally told in a cupboard my grandad was going to die in three days. We took him home where he lived for another two weeks before he died.

37. In contrast, Henry Watson, my current physician (since 1994) was a breath of fresh air: he has a very professional, supportive and caring bedside manner. He was everything you could possibly hope to have in a doctor. Other amazing clinical staff included Dr Bennett and Joan Rae (a nurse). Both were always really nice. Joan-Rae had a brilliant bedside manner: she was loving, caring and professional. My current haematology nurse is a joy and so helpful. Nothing is ever a problem and has shown me, my brother and my family great care and attention over the last few years in her role as Joan-Rae's replacement.

38. There has never been an explanation or apology about what happened or why with my Hep C infection. So many people in my family were affected. My mother started writing to politicians in the late 1980s. She is the strongest person I know. She had to watch my grandfather die and see me infected with HCV. The stress of it all led to her having a nervous breakdown at one point. She had to live with the fear of not knowing whether what happened to her father would also happen to her son.

39. I have never been offered any psychological support or assistance, or even been signposted to where I can find help to deal with the impact of hepatitis C. As a child or teenager, I was never sat down by any clinician at any point to tell me about HCV and the impact it could have on me. I seem to recall around 1996 attending a Hep C clinic and it was around this time the real reality of my infection became apparent in terms of this is a disease that can kill. Nearly everything I know about Hep C, I learnt by myself through books and eventually the internet.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

40. Around 2001 or 2002, I got a letter from Henry Watson informing me that there was some financial assistance available. He said he believed I would be eligible as I was infected through my haemophilia treatment with blood products. Prior to 2002, I didn't receive any financial assistance – I didn't know anything about the MacFarlane or Elaine Fund.

41. I received a payment from the Skipton Fund. That money was life changing because it allowed me to put down a deposit for a property with my partner. I got £30,000 from the Skipton Fund in 2016. I only joined the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (SIBSS) in April 2021. I didn't realise that I could continue to receive payments once I had been cleared of hepatitis C. These payments will make a massive difference: it is like winning the lottery. It takes the financial pressure off my mortgage as I receive about £1,500 per month.

42. Receiving these payments in a way is some form of recognition that something wrong was done to you but no one has ever held their hand up and admitted we got it wrong, we're sorry for what happened to you under our watch.

Section 8. Other Issues

43. This public inquiry isn't about getting money. In my opinion it's about someone identifying what went wrong, why it will never happen again and an apology from those bearing culpability. I would like to say thank you to all the Inquiry team for looking into this horrendous event that has left some many people with health issues, broken hearts and broken families.

44. Ultimately, for me, it's a question of whether they did all they could to minimise the exposure of Haemophiliacs to tainted blood products – and the answer is sadly no. I feel like there were red flags for clinicians and members of government that things were not quite right with the treatment being given to haemophiliacs. I think steps could have been taken earlier to stop this. I also think there was a massive window of opportunity that successive governments have skirted around to put things right with a framework of compensation, taking responsibility for the actions at the time that led to this disaster, and doing whatever was needed to make things right. To let those infected and affected know they do matter. Their lives, their suffering and the deaths of loved ones is recognised.

45. My daughter is a haemophiliac carrier. I don't want a phone call from my daughter in 20 years saying her child has been infected with a new form of Hepatitis or another disease that was clearly being transmitted through blood products but 'oh wait sorry we didn't want to spend the money trying to treat the blood products' or 'we didn't really know what was going on' or any other number of excuses I've read or heard over the years relating to the tainted blood scandal. These mistakes cannot be repeated. EVER.

46. I am really grateful that my brother never got infected by hepatitis C or HIV. I feel really sorry for all the people that have been caught up in this situation that could have been avoided – especially, because the warning signs were all there.

47. If there is an industrial accident, there is an investigation, they publish what went wrong and what will be done to avoid it happening again. There's normally some form of formal compensation for loss or injury and most importantly an apology. But here, there has been absolutely nothing. Some people have been dealing with this trauma for 40 years. People have to live everyday with the literal torture of losing family members. As a dad the thought of having to bury your child because they were infected with a disease given to them to help them doesn't bear thinking about.

48. I feel like I have only been able to fully process what happened to me now at the age of 41. I feel extremely sorry for everyone who has been caught up in this, especially those who died and did not have the opportunity to have their stories heard first-hand. I hope that whatever the outcome of this Inquiry, those infected and affected can finally find some peace, some answers and justice – something that has been denied to all of us for the last 40 years.

49. There has to be someone, somewhere that will hold their hands up and say they got it wrong. Errors were made across a prolonged period of time and in a number of different departments and organisations. There has to be a pledge that something like this will not happen again. Most importantly, they need to say sorry for what they did to us.

50. Money can never fix things or bring back loved ones, and I believe for many the hurt, pain and suffering that has been inflicted on those infected and affected, no amount of compensation will ever repair the damage that has been done. The only thing any compensation can ever bring is a financial cushion for those suffering knowing their loved ones will be taken care of financially once they're gone. That those still alive and dealing with their infections and the deep mental scars that this tragedy has left them with can create some special moments and experiences - being able to afford a new home or pay off their mortgage, put their kids through uni, go on a holiday and not have to worry about health insurance or medical cover should something happened abroad. The idea of compensation also in my mind finally

says that someone, somewhere got it wrong. Someone finally admitting that mistakes were made that could have been avoided. That people hurt, injured and killed by this tragedy are recognised as being victims of what happened rather than what I feel everyone has been treated as for close to 40 years - a burden on the state. And most importantly for everyone, we can finally hear the words that up until now have never been sincerely said 'we are sorry for what we did to you and we will do everything in our power to make sure something like never happens again'. I have the upmost love and respect for the NHS, they do an amazing job day after day and I am very grateful to all the staff over the years who have shown compassion and care for myself and my family, more so in my later years attending the hospital. Once again on behalf of my family I give my gratitude, thanks to the inquiry team and give thanks to the bravery and dignity shown by all the victims who have given their heartfelt evidence to the inquiry so far.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-B

Dated 10.9.2021