

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No: WITN7281001

Exhibits: WITN8281002

Dated: October 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

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

Section 1. Introduction

1. My full name is **GRO-B** I was born on **GRO-B** 1959, and I live at **GRO-B**
2. I was infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) by my wife, **GRO-B: W** **W** was given a contaminated blood transfusion when our twins were delivered on **GRO-B** 1999. I was also found to be co-infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records.

4. [W] has provided her own Witness Statement to the Inquiry (Witness Number [GRO-B])

Section 2. How Infected

5. Our twins [GRO-B] and [GRO-B] were born (through a normal birth, without Caesarean) at the [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] on [GRO-B] 1999. Shortly thereafter [W] was rushed to a care unit and given a blood transfusion of several pints of blood because of postpartum hemorrhaging.
6. [W] was told that she was infected with HIV on 23rd May 2012 (nearly 13 years later). I was diagnosed as being infected with HIV on 20th June 2012. I became very unwell in November 2013, and I was told at that time that I had previously been infected with HCV, as I had HCV antibodies in my blood. I had been infected with HCV and had self-cleared it. I was given this information by Dr M Sivaram at the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital.
7. I would like to add that [W] and I were both healthy and free from infection ahead of the IVF treatment we went through to have the twins. The [GRO-B] Hospital in [GRO-B] conducted health screening to ensure that there was no cause for concern of any underlying sickness whatsoever.

Section 3. Other Infections

8. As a result of [W]'s HIV positive status and then my own, our twins had to undergo HIV tests. The twins tested negative

Section 4. Consent

9. We had no idea that [W] had been placed at risk of infection through the blood transfusion. I was therefore oblivious to the risk of cross infection.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

10. After some few months and years of the blood transfusion, [W] and I noticed an increase in health symptoms of constant fevers, sweating, coughs, fatigue, chills and general flu like symptoms. My weight loss became so concerning that I sought help from my previous GP (Dr [GRO-B] on several occasions. I told him that my wife was given a blood transfusion after her childbirth and that we had both felt unwell since that time. I told him that we both suspected the blood transfusion to be responsible, but it wasn't taken seriously. We were pretty much sent away with antibiotics on each occasion. My wife's poor condition became so severe that she fainted one night and was taken to A&E, where they suspected some form of infection. It was only then that [W] was finally referred by our GP to a Haematologist.

11. After running several tests Dr Christine Wright made the diagnosis that [W] was HIV positive and she was immediately referred to Dr M Sivaram, both doctors being Consultants at the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals. Our families were devastated and, more so, when I was tested and found to be HIV positive a few weeks later. The fact that our twins thankfully tested negative came as a huge relief and also lends credence to our firm belief that the blood transfusion given to [W] just after their birth on [GRO-B] 1999 was the source of the infection.

12. As stated, I became extremely ill in November 2013, so much so that my very life was at stake, and I ended up taking 27 tablets per day. I refer to Exhibit WITN7281002 being a letter Dr Sivaram to my GP dated 26th November 2013. It

was around that time that Dr Sivaram told me that I had also previously been infected with HCV (now cleared).

13. My personal health and my emotional wellbeing have been hugely impacted. The psychological trauma I have experienced over the years since learning of my diagnosis stays with me. I am subjected to a constant, daily reminder of it through the treatment I am reliant upon.

14. Our twins have been highly subjected to this psychological trauma when they got to know the sad news that their parents had been infected by the HIV virus. Ever since telling them of our HIV status due to the blood transfusion, they have felt uneasy with us as they are in constant fear for our lives because of our daily unending taking of HIV medication. They are concerned and afraid that they are going to lose us and be left alone in the world without parents as they are growing up in life with this constant, daily reminder of our health condition status relating to the HIV infections.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. I haven't had any psychological care or support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

16. I haven't had any assistance from the Trusts and Funds. I am in the process of trying to obtain all my medical records.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

~~18~~ I wish to remain anonymous, and I understand that this redacted Statement will be published by the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... **GRO-B**

Dated..... 21/10/22