

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7282001

Exhibits: WITN7282002-3

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 1958, and I live at GRO-B
2. I was infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) through a contaminated blood transfusion I had after my twins were delivered on GRO-B GRO-B 1999.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records.

Section 2. How Infected

4. My twins, **GRO-B: D** and **GRO-B: S** were born at the **GRO-B** Hospital in **GRO-B** or **GRO-B** 1999. Shortly thereafter I was rushed to a care unit and given a blood transfusion of several pints of blood because of postpartum hemorrhaging. I was discharged a few days later with my babies. I refer to Exhibit WITN7282002 being the corresponding extract in my medical notes.
5. I didn't know that I was infected with HIV until 23rd May 2012 (nearly 13 years later). I was diagnosed as being infected with HIV by Dr Christine Wright at her Haematology Clinic at the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital. She immediately referred me for treatment to Dr M Sivaram at his GUM Clinic at the same hospital. I refer to Exhibit WITN72820023 being copy letters pertaining.
6. I had IVF treatment through a specialist private hospital **GRO-B** Hospital in **GRO-B** to have the twins. The Hospital conducted health screening to ensure that there was no cause for concern of any underlying sickness whatsoever. I was in very good health and free of HIV infection or any other health risk to jeopardise my IVF treatment. I had no previous history of blood transfusion or any other risk factor. I have talked it through with my GP on several occasions and I am in no doubt that I was infected with HIV through the blood transfusion.

Section 3. Other Infections

7. As a result of my HIV positive status my husband and our twins were asked to undergo HIV tests, and my husband was found to be positive. The twins tested negative

Section 4. Consent

8. I had no idea that I had been placed at risk of infection through the blood transfusion. No-one told me that I had been placed at risk for something close to 13 years. I am now given to understand that people are known to have been infected with HIV through blood transfusions being administered as late as 2002.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

9. After some few months and years of the blood transfusion 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 I had been given several pints of blood at the birth of my twins and had not felt right since that time. I even took the matter up with the GP Practise, but it was not taken very seriously.
10. On the night of 24th October 2010, I fainted at home and was taken to A&E by ambulance. It was only then that my previous GP started to take my health issues seriously and referred me for tests.
11. Being infected with a deadly infection like HIV has devastated my marriage and our families. 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.
12. 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

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

Section 7. Financial Assistance

14. 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

15. 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