

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No. WITN0005005

Exhibits: None

Dated: 12 September 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF **GRO-B**

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

1. After being diagnosed with the Hepatitis C virus, my life changed, my wife's life changed and so did the financial security I thought I had. The hobbies I once pursued I had to give up and my quality of life descended into illness and depression that continues to this day. My skin is now photo sensitive and I look like I have been burnt. This is something that causes me discomfort and distress.
2. I was told I had Hepatitis C in a haemophilia clinic and was told that I had probably been infected from the seventies. I was not offered any explanation as to what to expect from diagnosis or any support.
3. I was told that I would have to have a liver biopsy and an appointment would be made for me. It took almost 12 months before I finally got one and that was only because of ringing the hospital and being told it was being looked into. It was only by complaining to the hospital manager that I got an appointment. The doctor who had been dealing with my case had left, along with her secretary and all the relevant paperwork was 'lost'.
4. The biopsy was arranged and after four days in hospital, I was told that I would be going onto a treatment of Interferon. This treatment was by injections, three times a week. These had to be an accurately measured dose and injected into my tummy or thigh. It felt like having permanent flu symptoms and always

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feeling unwell. I had this for six months and then was told I would need a further six months but this was then changed into a pen to administer measured doses. This was easier to manage and cope with. This treatment seemed to be successful but a liver function test showed a positive test. I was then offered a combination treatment of Interferon and Ribaviren, which at the time was a trial, so nobody knew what the side-effects would be. This turned out to be the most traumatic of the treatments. This consisted of injections and tablets.

5. I went from being a normal man to a complete wreck. The depression was almost instant. I went from top to rock bottom, sickness every morning, very bad panic attacks making breathing difficult, no energy, unable to sleep or sleeping all day, increased pain and crying for hours on end. My life was no longer normal.
6. I had to pay for prescriptions for sickness tablets and anti-depressants. Some of these prescriptions came to over £25 at the time. I had to give up work due to my severe haemophilia and arthritis. So this illness magnified any problems I had physically, mentally and emotionally, not counting the financial cost.
7. My wife works and is my sole carer. Not only was she caring for me and my elderly mother, she was administering my treatments as I was unable to cope with all of it. On top of all this, the financial security we thought we had was gone when the life insurance we had was cancelled and not renewed. We could not find another insurer to take us on. All this compounded the depression, and along with no desire for a sex life, my life was not what it used to be and would not be again. I think my wife suffered as much as myself and if it had not been for her help and support, I could not have made it through the treatment.
8. The treatment was successful but for the depression, panic attacks, lack of sex drive, painful skin and fatigue. The Hepatitis C virus has changed my life totally and it will never be the same again. It took away the years of my life that should have been enjoyable with hobbies, holidays and having fun but instead it was illness, pain and a long road to a recovery of sorts.

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9. I cannot put into words all that has happened and how I feel but I hope this statement goes some way to explaining how it affected me and my family.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated.....

12.09-19