

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN1206002

Dated: 13 May 2024

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I, GRO-B will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B. The Inquiry is aware of my address.
2. I make this statement as the fiancée of the late GRO-B: F in response to the Additional Statement of Alexander MacPherson dated 11 April 2024.

Section 2. response to Additional Statement of Alexander MacPherson

3. I met F in around 1986/87 at a local further education college his having previously been a pupil at Lord Mayor Treloar College (LMTTC) from the age of 11 to 16. I describe below my recollection of what F told me had happened when he was expelled from school.
4. I limit my comments to paragraphs 42 and 43 of his Additional Statement as they concern my late fiancé but my failure to comment on other assertions in that statement should not be taken as agreement to the views expressed. I

ANONYMOUS

am simply providing context to the letter exhibited to that statement as I believe that the use to which it has been put is misleading and I wish to set the record straight.

5. At paragraph 42 Mr MacPherson states that the *"behaviour of many of the haemophiliacs at the school was challenging"* and that the school *"had an inclusive approach which meant that behaviours that may have led to expulsion at a mainstream boarding school were dealt with lesser sanctions"* and that *"expelling a child would be serious detriment to them"*. He goes on that say that *"[a]t that time, parents were full of gratitude and appreciation"* which now *"seems to have been forgotten"*.
6. When I met F he described to me how difficult a time he had had at LMTC as he struggled to cope with what life had thrown at him and his brother GRO-B
GRO-B The family was already traumatised and when F was expelled for having a girlfriend it put further strain on the family and he was seen as the black sheep.
7. It was during his 5th year (now called Year 11) at LMTC that F was expelled because he had been dating GRO-B I recall that he told me that the boys at the school had been told not to have girlfriends, but many did. I'm not sure if he was aware of his HIV positive status at that time but the school was certainly aware of it.
8. I recall feeling very sorry for him when he described to me what had happened. I remember thinking that they were all just young lads who were trying to cope with a potentially life ending disease. It just seemed incredible to me that he was treated like a criminal just for having a girlfriend. He described how the school made him feel ashamed even though he had done nothing wrong.
9. He said that that they were all fearful of the headmaster who was old fashioned and demanded total obedience from the pupils and I understand

that he wasn't the only pupil to get in trouble and/or be excluded because of having relationships.

10. Mr MacPherson's statement gives the impression that pupils were not expelled but [F] was, and the letter exhibited is in connection with that expulsion and not what it is expressed to be.

11. At paragraph 43 Mr MacPherson states that "*b]efore leaving at the end of their last term it was customary (but not a rule) that pupils would come to see me to say farewell or else they might write me a letter. I found one recently from [F] [WITN5561005].*

12. Mr MacPherson's recollection and account does not accord with what [F] told me had happened at that time.

13. [F] told me that his father was very cross that he had been expelled approached the school to have [F] re-instated, which clearly he was. He also insisted that [F] had to grovel to the school to be allowed back to sit his exams and that letter was part of that process.

14. [F] told me that his father had forced him to write the letter and that he left as soon as his exams were over. That was the reason for the letter and not that it was as a token of appreciation.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed....

GRO-B

GRO-B

Dated.....

14-5-2024