

19th July 2005

Private & Confidential

Name/
Address

Dear

I am writing with some important information about your past blood donations and your future position as a donor.

As a blood donor, you will probably be aware of the concern that the disease known as variant CJD (vCJD) may have been passed on to patients through blood transfusion. Since 1997 the Scottish National Blood Transfusion (SNBTS) has introduced a number of measures designed to reduce the risk of transmitting vCJD through blood transfusion. I am writing now with regard to a further precautionary measure that directly affects you.

In 1993 you were one of several donors who donated blood, which was transfused, to a patient in hospital. The patient later developed vCJD. We do not know whether the patient developed vCJD because of exposure to the infection through diet, or from another source. Other possible sources include surgical instruments and blood transfusion. It is not possible to determine how the infection might have been spread, but experts have been advising the Scottish Executive Health Department on the specific issue of blood transfusion.

Although most of the population of the UK is considered to have been exposed to a background risk of vCJD through diet, some people have been identified who may bear a further risk through previous surgical treatment or having received a blood transfusion. We are now adding donors such as yourself to the 'at risk' group.

The conclusion of the expert groups, taking all the circumstances into account, is that all the blood donors whose blood has been transfused to patients who have later developed vCJD should be asked to stop donating. I am therefore writing to you, and all the other donors, to explain that as a precautionary measure you will no longer be able to give blood.

In addition, there are other health messages, which we would like to pass on to you and these are detailed in the information enclosed.

Because your blood was transfused to a patient who later developed vCJD, you must be considered "at risk of vCJD for public health purposes". The enclosed information explains in more detail what this means, and the implications for you. In summary, although vCJD cannot be transmitted through everyday social contact, you should not donate blood or other

tissues. and must inform medical carers and dentists before undergoing any treatment. .

We understand that the information in this letter may well cause you concerns and raise a number of questions, particularly for such a loyal supporter of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service. However, I would like to thank you on behalf of SNBTS and the patients in Scotland to whom you have made a vital difference by giving blood.

Please read the enclosed information, which may provide some answers to these questions. After reading the information, you may have questions, which have not been answered. Please telephone our office on tel nos. 01382647716 or 01382647717 between 08:30 to 05:00 [Monday to Friday] and ask to speak to one of the medical staff. We will do our best to help with further information

Your own doctor (GP) has been informed of the contents of this letter, and will be prepared to provide further help and information as required.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Ian M Franklin
SNBTS National Medical and Scientific Director

Encs: Information for Donors to vCJD Cases