

Medical in confidence

CJD INCIDENTS PANEL

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23rd March 2005

Dear Dr McClelland,

Blood donors to vCJD cases: reduction of further risk of transfusion-transmission of vCJD

I am writing to inform you of letters I have sent to the UK Chief Medical Officers recommending that the UK Blood Services are asked to prevent the use of blood donated by individuals whose blood is known to have been transfused to patients who have subsequently developed vCJD. Please find enclosed a copy of my letter to Dr Henrietta Campbell which I hope explains the issue concerned.

You will see (penultimate paragraph) that this matter chiefly concerns the Blood Services in England and Scotland, as no donors to vCJD cases have to date come from the Welsh or Northern Irish Blood Services. However, I thought I should bring to your attention the possibility that donors who have been identified due to donation (to vCJD cases) in England and Scotland may have also donated in Northern Ireland, and could in fact currently be active donors in Northern Ireland.

Many of the donors concerned are known to no longer be active on the English and Scottish donor panels. While the chance of one of these donors attending as a new donor in Northern Ireland during the next few months (before they are asked not to give blood) is probably very low, the possibility that one of these donors is a registered donor in Northern Ireland may – in the light of the concerns detailed in my enclosed letter - warrant checking. I understand (via Kate Soldan) that Dr Pat Hewitt and Dr Marc Turner would be willing to discuss sharing the names of the donors concerned with the Northern Ireland Blood Service if you do feel that it would be appropriate and feasible to run such a check on your donor panel.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Kate Soldan, if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C



Mr David Pryer
Chairman, CJD Incidents Panel

Encl Letter of 10th March to Dr Henrietta Campbell

Cc Dr Pat Hewitt (patricia.hewitt@**GRO-C**)

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