



● Maria Murray

30/01/2001 15:18

Sent by: Maria Murray/COMMS

To: Charles Lister/HSD2/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Alan Harvey/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C

cc:

Subject: Questions on vCJD and blood

Charles/Alan,

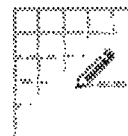
I assumed that these questions had been sent directly to you but perhaps not.
Channel 4 news have phoned wanting to know:

1. What action we are taking in relation to other products manufactured from the blood - antithrombin 3, albumin and intravenous immunoglobulin?
2. A cutting from The Guardian last month quoted a DH spokesperson as saying that 13 of the 88 people who have died of vCJD were blood donors. Can we confirm this figure? Is any action being taken in relation to these batches of contaminated blood?
3. They also want information on the numbers of people involved.

Unfortunately we need briefing as soon as possible.

Maria

----- Forwarded by Maria Murray/COMMS/DOH/GB on 30/01/2001 15:05 -----



Nadine Smith
30/01/2001 11:16

Sent by: Nadine Smith/COMMS

To: Maria Murray/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C

cc:

Subject:

We need to answer the following and have lines on this which I have sent to you.

Q How many haemophilia patients are potentially affected by the blood donor who has vCJD?

A No new haemophiliac patients. No children who are haemophiliacs - they receive recombinant blood. The donor with vCJD gave blood before the Government took steps to source plasma from the US and provide recombinant blood to all new patients and children with haemophilia.

Q Are non-haemophilacs also at risk from vCJD through this blood donor?

Q Can vCJD be passed through blood?

WE do not know but that has not been a case yet of this.

Q What action has Government taken in response to the potential risk of vCJD?

Plasma from US only. Children and new patients with haemophilia receive recombinant blood. Surgical instruments and decontamination procedures in hospitals.

Q Has the Government tried to trace the patients?

Haemophilia Society is writing to all doctors to advise on this and has informed patients that they can get in touch with their doctor.

Q What is the Government's guidance on informing patients that they may have been exposed to vCJD?

Under active review.

Q. Has Professor Banner now resigned?