

Witness Name: Michael Mason

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**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**EXHIBIT WITN1377003**

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Caring for people with bleeding disorders



THE  
HAEMOPHILIA  
SOCIETY  
UNITED KINGDOM

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Dear member

I am writing to let you know some recent information about blood products produced by Bio Products Laboratory (BPL) in 1996 and 1997. This may be something you will have heard about from other sources and this letter is to give you more information.

The Society was recently notified by BPL that plasma from a person later found to have variant CJD had been used in the manufacture of clotting factor for the treatment of people with haemophilia. This donated plasma would have been used in 1996 and 1997 - before 1998 when Government stopped the use of UK plasma in the manufacture of blood products and required BPL to source plasma instead from the USA. We do not know exactly how many people with haemophilia may be affected by this but BPL have stated that 'this particular donor's plasma has gone into a tiny percentage of the products distributed before 1998.' The affected products include 8Y, Replenate and Replenine.

First and foremost, we would stress that any risk of transmission of variant CJD through blood products is theoretical; there have been no reported cases of variant CJD among the haemophilia community.

The Society has been advised by BPL that the affected products are no longer in use. They will either have reached their expiry date or have been destroyed after BPL switched to using US plasma in the manufacture of clotting factor products from 1998 on. This is therefore not a product recall.

Since learning of this information, the Society has been in close contact with the United Kingdom Haemophilia Doctors Organisation. We are firmly of the view that patients should be informed about any issues relating to their treatment, and should receive individual advice and, if need be, counselling.

We understand that individual haemophilia centres are currently tracing the patients involved and it is likely that you will be contacted by your centre director in the near future. However, if you have any immediate concerns do contact your own haemophilia centre directly.

You may also contact the Society's services team via the freephone helpline on 0800 018 6068 (Monday to Friday 9-5), but please be aware that we are not able to give information on batch numbers or the particular centres which have received these products.

Yours faithfully

GRO-C

Karin Pappenheim  
Chief Executive

### Some Facts about vCJD

1. vCJD is a newly recognised condition with cases mainly in the UK and a small number in France.
2. vCJD is considered to be the human form of BSE, a condition caused in cattle by a prion
3. It is presumed that vCJD has been transmitted to humans by eating beef from cows with BSE. If this is so, anyone who has eaten contaminated beef may be at risk of developing vCJD.
4. There is no reported cases of vCJD transmitted by blood or blood products – the risk therefore at this time remains theoretical.
5. There is no test for vCJD that can be used to test blood donors or to identify people with vCJD before they become unwell.
6. All plasma products now made by BPL are made with plasma from USA donors, as there have been no cases of vCJD or BSE in cattle in the USA.
7. There may be further notifications in the future if other patients with vCJD have been blood donors.
8. Some plasma products are made with American and non-UK European plasma. The Protein Fractionation Centre (PFC) in Scotland uses plasma sourced from the USA and Germany. The use of European plasma may be reconsidered in the future as BSE is being identified in an increasing number of European countries.