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Written Answer

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VARIANT CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE

264 Lynne Featherstone (Hornsey & Wood Green):

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when the National CJD Surveillance Unit informed his Department of evidence of infection of a patient with a bleeding disorder with vCJD transmitted by a transfusion; and if he will make a statement. [258723]

DAWN PRIMAROLO

The information on the finding of abnormal prion protein associated with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) in a spleen sample taken from a haemophilia patient at post mortem, was presented to the Department by National CJD Surveillance Unit on 6 January 2009. Before the finding was made public on 17 February, it was important to find out information about the patient's possible routes of exposure to abnormal prion protein associated with vCJD. The Health Protection Agency and the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation worked to prepare accurate information packs and letters for haemophilia centre doctors and their patients.