

Draft Written Ministerial Statement – New recommendations for blood donor exclusions

The oral statement on 17 December 2003 informed the House of the first case of probable transmission of vCJD via blood transfusion and the actions taken as a result of this case to protect future blood supplies. The statement indicated that the House would be updated on any major changes.

The oral statement of 16 March 2004 indicated that the Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood and Tissue for Transplantation (MSBT) had been asked to consider whether further measures were needed.

The recommendations were to exclude from donating blood people who have previously received transfusions of whole blood
This statement is to inform the House that on 29 June 04, MSBT recommended tightening the exclusion criteria for two groups: *further to cover* *not again* *key points since Jan 1980*

- 1 previously transfused apheresis donors
- 2 donors who were unsure if they had previously had a blood transfusion

April 2004
When actions were taken in December 2003 to exclude certain donor groups, both these groups were exempt from exclusion as the size of the groups was uncertain, and the best estimates at that time indicated that there was a risk of an adverse impact on the blood supply.

In the light of experience since the exclusions came into effect, the numbers of people excluded have been well below anticipated number, and MSBT think it is now practical to exclude these additional groups without adverse impact on the blood supply. This statement informs the House of the introduction of these new exclusions. *which will*

take effect from 2 August.

in terms of the precautionary principle