



30th October 2006

Professor Frank Hill
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Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust
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Dear Professor Hill

A blood test to detect people who are infected with vCJD may be developed in the near future. This test will probably be used to screen blood donors, allowing the blood services to prevent blood from people with positive tests from being given to patients. This is important as there have now been three probable cases of vCJD infection being transmitted through blood transfusion.

There are, however, many questions and concerns about introducing a blood test for vCJD. The Chief Medical Officer has asked the Health Protection Agency to run a seminar on the ethical and social aspects of testing for vCJD, and to consult on the seminar's recommendations. These are available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/cjd/consultation.

The HPA is carrying out this consultation together with Populus, an opinion research company. We are conducting a stakeholder audit among experts, communities and interest groups, asking for views on the possible impact and implications of a new test for vCJD. We would very much welcome your participation.

This will involve being interviewed by a senior member of the Populus team for 20-30 minutes over the phone at your convenience some time over the next three to four weeks or so. Your answers will be completely confidential and anonymous. We can also arrange, where appropriate, for your organisation to submit a formal corporate response to the issues under discussion.

A representative from Populus will contact you in the next few days to see when you might be available for interview. In the meantime if you have any queries please feel free to contact either Helen Janecek at the HPA on **GRO-C** or Sarah Hill at Populus on **GRO-C**

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Thank you again for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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Professor Pat Troop CBE, FFPH FRCP, DSc.
Chief Executive, Health Protection Agency

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Rick Nye
Director, Populus