

PFAS Newsletter, October 2025

Dear Islanders,

Please find the latest update on the PFAS work by the Government of Jersey and the PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel. Previous newsletters, reports and documents are available at www.gov.je/PFAS.

Publication and presentation of Report 3: Testing, biomonitoring and management of PFAS in the human body, and Government's response

The third report from the Scientific Advisory Panel was published last month alongside Government's response. On 10 September, Public Health held an Islander meeting to present the response. Both documents and minutes from the meeting are available online on www.gov.je/PFAS.

The meeting was focused on three areas of recommendations from the Panel and explained the Government of Jersey's planned actions in response.

Testing

Testing will be made more widely available to those in the original plume area and those in the wider plume area defined by Arcadis in May. The key requirement is that Islanders must have drunk borehole water in this area, as this is the main route of exposure to the PFAS from the airport.

The Panel also recommended blood testing for those that may have been occupationally exposed to PFAS through their work during the period when firefighting foams containing PFAS of concern were in use. This will include firefighters and those who were involved in the transport, loading or cleanup of the concentrates, solutions or foams or in servicing or maintaining machinery or facilities contaminated with the foams as part of their job.

The decision on anonymous wider testing across the Island will be postponed until further information from Report 4 has been provided.

Some members of the community have requested non-anonymous island-wide testing in Jersey, however this was not recommended by the Panel at this time.

Clinician Awareness

The Panel indicated that clinicians should be made aware of potential health effects from PFAS. The Government agreed, therefore education sessions for clinicians will be arranged and further information will be made available to raise clinical awareness of PFAS in Jersey.

Interventions

The Panel has recommended that colesevelam be made available to eligible Islanders as an intervention to reduce PFAS body burden. A service to provide this is in development, and should be up and running by the end of the year. Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Women of childbearing potential who have a total PFAS level across 8 compounds of at least 10ng/ml in blood serum

- Islanders who have elevated cholesterol and a total PFAS level across 8 compounds of at least 20ng/ml in blood serum
- Islanders for whom doctors assess that there is an exceptional benefit of an intervention and who have a PFAS level across 8 compounds of at least 20 ng/ml.

Local media coverage

Following the recent public meeting, some local and social media reports inaccurately claimed that the medication offered had not been tested in a clinical trial for PFAS reduction. This is incorrect. We've issued two public statements via the Jersey Evening Post to clarify.

During its review, the Panel received a presentation on a Swedish trial showing that Colesevelam—the recommended medication—effectively lowers PFAS levels. This trial has recently been published and is available here: [Serum, urinary and fecal concentrations of perfluoroalkyl substances after interventions with cholestyramine/colesevelam and probenecid – cross-over trials in Ronneby, Sweden - ScienceDirect](#). The independent PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel recommended Colesevelam based on the best available scientific evidence, including expert input and reference to the then-unpublished Swedish trial. Now the trial has been published the Panel have issued an addendum to their report to that effect.

Colesevelam is a well-known drug used to lower cholesterol, from a group of medications known as Bile Acid Sequestrants. During their review of this group of drugs the Panel heard of trials of two different types of Bile Acid Sequestrants, Cholestyramine (given in powder form) and Colesevelam (given in tablet form). Colesevelam, a bile acid sequestrant used to lower cholesterol, was found to be more tolerable to patients than cholestyramine in the trials. While no drug is licensed specifically for PFAS reduction, Colesevelam is a well-established cholesterol-lowering treatment with a long safety record.

The PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel have now updated their Report 3, referencing the fact that the study has now been published. They have updated section 7.4.3 to summarise the available data.

PFAS Clinical Review Service

Earlier this year, a Clinical Review Service was run by Dr Sofia Tosounidou, working with Dr Momin Ahmed. Several Islanders took up the offer, and feedback has been generally positive. This was run as a pilot between March and June 2025, as detailed in the original invitation letter. We would like to reassure Islanders that Dr Ahmed's engagement was always planned as a short-time engagement.. He was employed on a locum (temporary) basis to help deliver clinical appointments between March and June of this year. As the contract came to an end, Dr Ahmed is no longer providing services in the clinic.

Feedback and learning from this service will inform the second phase of the PFAS Clinical Service which will include a clinical intervention to reduce PFAS body burden. If you have any further feedback or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch at publichealth@gov.je.

Update on Report 4: Environmental routes of exposure

Draft Phase 1 was published in August. It focuses on mains drinking water and its raw sources (including reservoirs, streams and groundwater) and sets out the approach, early findings, and a provisional combined limit of 4 ng/L for four key PFAS in mains water, with delivery over five years.

Phase 2, due in December, focuses on food and soil. It will report on sampling and analysis of locally produced foods and soils, including land where biosolids have been applied.

A finalised Report 4 will be published next year, bringing Phases 1 and 2 together and setting clear recommendations. The Panel has confirmed that Jersey's public water supply meets current UK/EU standards and there is no cause for concern in the interim.

Next Panel meeting dates (online)

- Wednesday 22 October
- Thursday 6 November

Meetings are usually from 10:00am. Please keep an eye on emails from Regulation Enquiries for any changes.

We regularly add reports, agendas, and approved minutes to the website as they become available at www.gov.je/PFAS

As always, if you have any questions, please email regulationenquiries@gov.je.

Islander meetings

The next public meeting will be held at St Brelade's Parish Hall on Wednesday 17 December 2025, 17:30–19:00. The PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel will present the second interim Report 4 and take questions. Further details will be shared with Islanders closer to the time.

Questions, comments

If you have any further questions on Report 3, the clinical service or interventions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Public Health at publichealth@gov.je.

For more general questions, or those regarding Report 4 aspects (water testing, food testing, biosolids, slurry, destruction techniques etc), please contact regulationenquiries@gov.je.

Best wishes,

Peter Bradley
Director of Public Health