

August Newsletter

Dear Islanders

PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel update

We held the last PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel meeting on 4 August, where the panel discussed the three research review documents which will inform the first interim report on therapeutic phlebotomy. I have included a summary of these reviews below as a brief recap.

1. Risks and benefits of phlebotomy in the general population

The review concluded that in general phlebotomy is a safe procedure and the risks outlined below are either extremely rare, minor and self-limiting or both. Phlebotomy can sometimes cause: Discomfort and pain; Dizziness and light-headedness: Arterial or nerve puncture: Infection risks: Iron deficiency: and Needle phobia and anxiety. A person's weight and blood pressure are also factors in determining if taking blood is a safe option.

2. Review of the published literature on phlebotomy to manage PFAS exposure

This review included information about relevant studies, for example a Canadian family who had high exposure due to treating their carpets with Scotchgard (containing PFAS) and then looked at the blood results following blood donation. Also, an Australian study of firefighters with occupational exposure to PFAS-containing firefighting foams who were randomised into three groups; one offered phlebotomy interventions, one plasma donation, and a control group observed with no interventions.

From these studies and other comparative data, the Panel estimated the benefit per phlebotomy procedure in terms of reductions in measured serum PFAS concentrations, could range from 1.5% to 7.7%.

3. Types of clinical studies and their components

The third review outlined the different types of clinical studies to note for future reference.

All three draft review documents have previously been circulated and are also available on the website [PFAS in Jersey \(gov.je\)](https://www.gov.je/pfas)

The Chair of the Panel, Dr Steve Hajioff has welcomed receiving comments and questions from affected Islanders, and the deadline for comments or evidence relevant to report 1 (the interim report on therapeutic phlebotomy) is **Tuesday 5 September**. You can email the Panel at pfaspanel@gov.je

Next Panel meeting dates

Wednesday 6 September, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Thursday 12 October, 10:00am – 1:00pm

The next meetings of the Panel will be held online, please email to request the meeting link if you wish to observe, or to request a copy of the recording or minutes of the meetings. If you are on our email list, you will be sent the meeting link and agenda prior to the meeting.

You can request this information from publichealth@gov.je

We will also be adding meeting information and agendas to the website [PFAS in Jersey \(gov.je\)](https://www.gov.je/PFAS)

Invitation to the report launch and consultation event

I would like to invite you to the in-person report launch and consultation event with the PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel.

There will be an opportunity to meet the Chair and the PFAS Panel members, who will explain the first interim report on therapeutic phlebotomy and also launch the consultation for the draft structure of the second report, which will be an assessment of the impact of PFAS exposure on health.

This event is on **Wednesday 11 October 2023, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.**

The venue details will be sent nearer the time.

Please save the date and I do hope you can join us.

If you have any questions, please email publichealth@gov.je

Best wishes

Professor Peter Bradley

Director of Public Health