

## **PFAS Newsletter, August 2024**

Dear Islanders,

Please find the latest update on the PFAS work by Public Health and the Scientific Advisory Panel. Previous newsletters, and information about the Panel and their work so far, is available at [gov.je/PFAS](http://gov.je/PFAS).

### **Update on Report 2: An assessment of the impact of PFAS exposure on health**

The Scientific Advisory Panel are finalising Report 2 and the Panel will be launching the draft report at a meeting on 12 September, 5.30pm at Les Ormes. All Panel members will be in attendance. This will mark the beginning of a consultation period for Islanders to take the time to read and digest the report, and provide comments to the Panel. All comments will be taken into consideration and the Panel's responses will be documented in the final report.

The Panel are aware that the Jersey International Air Display is also on 12<sup>th</sup> September and understand that some Islanders may prefer the meeting to be held on another date. This date was the best available date for the whole Panel to be in Jersey for many weeks due to their competing priorities, and felt it was better the report be launched on this date than delay it.

Unfortunately, this meeting cannot be streamed online. This is for several reasons, the most important being that we want to create a space where Islanders know who is at the meeting and so can judge how to communicate, hopefully feeling able to express themselves fully while discussing sensitive subjects. Additionally, there are technical difficulties with setting up the meeting so that everyone can be heard clearly, and managing input from people online for those in the room is also difficult.

After the consultation period has closed and the Panel have finalised the report, it will be presented to Government, where Ministers will decide whether to accept the recommendations. Report 2 is expected to be finalised towards the end of 2024 with a formal launch date to be announced nearer the time.

### **Meeting with Islanders & Ministers on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

At the Islander meeting in June, Islanders requested that Public Health organised an audience with Ministers. The aim was for the Islanders to share their experiences, and to allow Islanders to ask the Ministers questions. This meeting took place on 31<sup>st</sup> July with the Minister for Environment (Steve Luce) and the Minister for Health and Social Services (Tom Binet). Minutes will be made available in due course. I'd like to thank everyone who attended the meeting, and particularly those who shared their experiences. As the Ministers explained at the time, they were moved by your experiences, and are working together to ensure PFAS is being prioritised.

We are actively looking for a doctor to support Islanders concerned about PFAS exposure, and hope to be able to update you on this soon. In parallel, we are investigating the potential to organise PFAS blood testing for a small group of

Islanders who live *outside* of the plume area. The purpose of this would be to understand the wider, cross-island nature of PFAS exposure before progressing with the phlebotomy service. Work on the phlebotomy service has also progressed, and the results of the new blood testing will inform how best to implement it.

### **Report 3: Clinical interventions and blood testing and re-testing**

The Panel continue to work on Report 3 into clinical interventions to reduce PFAS levels in blood, and blood testing. This report was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> June by Dr Steve Hajioff, the Chair of the Panel, in a public meeting at Les Ormes. The draft structure of the report was shared, followed by the opportunity for Islanders to provide feedback on the scope of the report, and Islanders had the opportunity to ask questions.

Two panel meetings were held online in July and August where the Panel planned the work, started to discuss draft papers for the report, and heard from an Expert by Experience. The Panel and the Public Health team are very grateful for your contribution, thank you.

The next Panel meeting will be held online on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 10-1pm, where the Panel will hear from Subject Matter Experts contributing to Report 3. The agenda will be available in advance.

### **Freedom of Information requests for PFAS**

Following the meeting with Islanders on 31 July, requests for information relating to PFAS have been raised under the Freedom of Information process. We want highlight to everyone on the mailing list about these recent requests. The information requested includes:

- Details of officers and advisors providing information to the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister for Environment (past and present)
- Details on the membership and meetings of the Officer Technical Group
- How current the information is that is on the GoJ PFAS website ([gov.je/PFAS](http://gov.je/PFAS))

The responses to these requests will be published on gov.je in line with the Freedom of Information process, and will be available here: [Freedom of Information requests and responses \(gov.je\)](#)

### **Future Meetings**

- The next face-to-face meeting for Islanders and the PFAS Panel will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 5.30pm at Les Ormes. The whole Panel will be attending to discuss recommendations from Report 2 - Assessment of evidence of impact on health.
- The next online meeting of the Panel will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. This will be for the panel to hear from Subject Matter Experts about phlebotomy, plasmapheresis and other potential interventions to minimise the

amount of PFAS in blood. Meetings are usually from 10:00am. If there are any changes, we will share them by email and will update the website.

Previous meeting minutes and future agendas are updated on the website as they become available at [gov.je/PFAS](http://gov.je/PFAS). To request a copy of the online meeting recordings, please email [publichealth@gov.je](mailto:publichealth@gov.je).

As always, if you have any questions, please email [publichealth@gov.je](mailto:publichealth@gov.je)

Best wishes,

Grace Norman

**Deputy Director of Public Health**