

## **PFAS Newsletter, December 2023**

Dear Islanders,

### **PFAS meeting: Report 1 Launch and Government Response**

On Friday 1 December, Islanders met with the Chief Minister, Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister for the Environment as well as the Chair of the PFAS Panel and Director and Deputy Director of Public Health.

The Ministers confirmed that they accept all of the recommendations from the Panel and a therapeutic phlebotomy service will be developed for eligible Islanders who had their blood tested for PFAS as part of the Public Health testing in 2022.

The eligibility criteria are:

- Participated in the blood testing programme in 2022 with PFAS results of at least 10 nanograms per millilitre and until levels reach median background levels
- Aged between 18 and 65 who weigh at least 50 kg; outside of this by clinical judgement
- Not knowingly pregnant

The Panel's eligibility recommendation is for people who participated in the blood testing programme in 2022 with PFAS results of at least 10 nanograms per millilitre and until levels reach median background levels. The decision from Ministers was to agree this and additionally, anyone from the 2022 testing programme with a result of between 8 and 10 nanograms per millilitre can be re-tested. If results are 10 or greater, they can be considered for the service.

You can read the full Panel report here [First Report of the Independent PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel for Jersey \(gov.je\)](#)

Public Health will now progress setting up this service, as well as identifying a clinical lead to support the service and help eligible Islanders decide if taking up the offer is right for them. We will continue to provide updates to you as this service develops.

We would like to hear from Islanders who are interested in helping to design the therapeutic phlebotomy service, if you are interested, please email: [publichealth@gov.je](mailto:publichealth@gov.je) before 12 January 2024.

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

The Panel's work on report two is now developing. As part of this report, the Panel have heard from affected Islanders as experts by experience. The second meeting where further testimonies will be heard will take place on Thursday 7 December. Please note, the time of the meeting has moved to 4pm to accommodate Islanders availability.

In addition to hearing from Islanders in the public meetings, the Panel have also been hearing from people who felt more comfortable to share their experiences in private.

The insight Islanders share with the Panel – whether in public or private - is extremely valuable and we appreciate the time people have given as part of this process.

### **Updated leaflet which accompanied blood testing results**

Through recent conversations, it has become clear that some Islanders who had their blood tested for PFAS were not provided with the supporting information to help understand the results. We apologise to anyone who did not receive this from their GP when they got their results. We have updated the document, and a copy is attached, and it is available now on the website. See [PFAS Blood Testing in Jersey \(gov.je\)](https://www.gov.je/PFAS/Blood-Testing-in-Jersey).

### **Next Panel meeting dates (online)**

- Thursday 7 December 2023, 4pm
- Thursday 18 January 2024
- Thursday 8 February 2024
- Monday 4 March 2024
- Thursday 25 April 2024

Meetings are usually from 10:00am. Please keep an eye on our emails for any changes, particularly in January and February when the Panel will hear from global PFAS experts in different time zones.

We will be adding reports, agendas, and approved minutes to the website as they become available at [PFAS in Jersey \(gov.je\)](https://www.gov.je/PFAS).

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