

# **PFAS Meeting: Report 1 Launch & Government Response**

1 December 2023

The Atlantic Hotel, St Ouen

# Welcome and introduction





# Welcome and introductions

Chief Minister, Deputy Moore

Minister for Health and Social Services, Deputy Wilson

Minister for the Environment, Deputy Renouf

Independent Chair of the PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel,  
Dr Steve Hajioff



# Purpose of the meeting

1. Summarise the Panel's recommendations on the potential for a therapeutic phlebotomy service
2. Inform Islanders of the Government's response to the recommendations
3. An opportunity for Islander input and questions with Ministers on therapeutic phlebotomy and other topics

# Agenda



## Therapeutic phlebotomy:

- Presentation on the Panel Recommendations & Government's response
- Therapeutic phlebotomy feedback & Q&A

## Islanders' questions and answers with Ministers

## Next steps

# PFAS Scientific Advisory Panel



# PFAS Panel membership



**Chair: Dr Steve Hajioff**

- Former Director of Public Health (Hillingdon)
- WHO, World Bank, EU, international governments, UK government departments
- Experienced at chairing scientific panels – NICE
- No PFAS background – independent



**Health: Dr Tony Fletcher**

- Associate Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Environmental epidemiologist
- 40 years' work in occupational and environmental epidemiology and risk assessment
- Researching the health effects of PFAS since 2005
- West Virginia and Ohio, Ronneby, Sweden and Veneto, Italy



**Environment: Professor Ian Cousins**

- Professor of Environmental Organic Chemistry, Stockholm University
- Leads a research group focusing on understanding of PFAS
- Research on PFAS since 1999
- Keynote speaker at international PFAS workshops
- Chair of international PFAS conference



# Scope of Panel reports

1. Interim report on the potential for a therapeutic phlebotomy service
2. Summary of the evidence around PFAS and physical and psychological health harms
3. Clinical interventions to reduce PFAS body burden and testing and re-testing
4. Environmental considerations and management
5. Update on previous reports





# Panel Approach & Principles

- Panel will be led by the evidence
- Evidence will be heard by experts by experience and subject matter experts
- Affected Islanders should be involved and informed throughout the process
- Panel meetings will be held online and the public can observe or request a copy of the recording by default
- The Panel will work in private where there is a need for confidentiality
- Islanders encouraged to email evidence and questions before or after meetings



# Panel Process

1. Draft report structure and share with affected Islanders for comment
2. Review of global evidence base
3. Receive evidence from subject matter experts and experts by experience
4. Draft report & recommendations
5. Draft shared with Public Health & Government
6. Share draft report with affected Islanders for comment
7. Review comments & respond
8. Final report submitted to Government
9. Government decide whether to accept or reject recommendations
10. Panel launch report & Government explain intentions to affected Islanders

# Report 1:

# The potential for an interim therapeutic phlebotomy service





# Report 1

Interim report into the potential for a therapeutic phlebotomy service

## Process

Four Panel meetings in public covering:

1. Scope
2. Literature review findings
3. Evidence from subject matter experts
4. Discussion & agreement of recommendations



# The Panel's recommendations

Government to offer a programme of therapeutic phlebotomy as an interim measure pending detailed review of health effects & effectiveness of alternative interventions

## **Eligibility criteria:**

- 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

## **Service recommendations:**

- Offered every 2 months with a max volume of 480ml.
- Testing: PFAS, blood count, iron, symptoms, wellbeing, adverse effects
- All data to be reviewed regularly to ensure continued safe participation & learning

# Panel's report is available online now

First Report of the Independent PFAS  
Scientific Advisory Panel for Jersey –  
The potential for an interim  
therapeutic phlebotomy service.

November 2023



# Government response





## **Ministerial Group decision**

The PFAS Ministerial Group accept all of the Panel's recommendations and ask that a service is made available in line with the Panel's recommendations





# Service eligibility

**Panel's recommendation:** 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

**Decision:** As above and additionally: Anyone from the 2022 testing programme with a result of 8-10 nanograms per millilitre can be re-tested. If results are 10 or greater, can be considered for the service

# Service specification



Service design has begun in Public Health & funding has been identified

Three key inter-related elements to the service:

- 1. Clinical service:** Offer therapeutic phlebotomy service. To include:
  1. Initial pre-service assessment to assess suitability for the service & frequency & volume of phlebotomy interventions, and assessment of baseline characteristics (e.g. iron levels, cholesterol, wellbeing).
  2. Taking & disposal of blood for individuals, up to 6 times a year (similar to blood donation)
  3. Regular assessment and care co-ordination ensuring ongoing suitability & patient support

# Description of service specification



**2. PFAS testing:** Off-island testing of blood over the duration of the programme

**3. Data monitoring & service evaluation:** Receipt, storage and interpretation of PFAS levels to advise the provider about individual's ongoing suitability, and to advise on and deliver a robust service evaluation so that we (& the Panel) understand the impact, including writing publications to contribute to the international evidence base



# Service design

- This will be the first time that therapeutic phlebotomy has been offered as a service
- It is important that we get this right and we ensure we have the right elements in place to ensure the safety and the quality of the service
- We will keep you updated about the development of the service through the newsletters
- We would like Islander involvement in the service design



# Service design involvement

**Temperature check** – if you were eligible for the service, would you consider taking it up?

**Service development** – please inform us if you'd like to be involved in the development of the service

## Sheet on your seat:

- No commitment
- Please only tick once
- Anonymous

# Next steps



## Public Health

- Continue exploring options for service delivery
- Engage with Islanders to develop the service
- Finalise the service specification

## Islanders

- Please use the sheets to let us know:
  - Whether you might be interested in receiving the service if you were eligible
  - If you'd be interested in being part of the service development
- If you have any comments on service design, please email us by 12<sup>th</sup> January at [publichealth@gov.je](mailto:publichealth@gov.je)

# Q&A Therapeutic Phlebotomy



# Question and answer session – General





# Next steps



# Final reminders

- Please sign up to the newsletter
- Next Panel meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm
- Please complete the slips on your seat & leave them by the door
- Please contact [publichealth@gov.je](mailto:publichealth@gov.je) to give us feedback about the service design or to register your interest to contribute to service design planning
- Results leaflets are available and now on the website

**Thank you**

