

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MD/MB/2308/15

Peter Black AM
AM for South Wales West
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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2 July 2015

Dear Peter,

Thank you for mentioning National Blood Week during plenary on 9 June and for requesting a statement on the latest position in respect of blood donation from men who have sex with men (MSM).

I can confirm that there have been no developments since the Committee for the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) reviewed disease transmission and improvements in blood testing in 2011 and 2013. In respect of MSM, the Welsh Blood Service and NHS Blood and Transplant (that serves north Wales) accept blood donated provided there has been 12 months since the last sexual contact.

The move from a permanent ban to a 12 month deferral period was a step in the right direction and reflected new evidence and expert advice. While protecting the UK's blood supply is critical, we need to take account of any new information that may influence blood donor selection criteria in the future. SaBTO's role in keeping a watching brief on emerging evidence and new technologies in the UK and worldwide and the likely impact on blood donation is therefore important. We want to ensure that as many people as possible are able to donate blood while ensuring we provide a safe blood supply to patients.

While my personal view in this matter is very similar to your own, Ministerially I have to abide by the arrangements which have been agreed at UK level and which guide the actions of all home nations.

I am copying this reply to Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance and Government Business.

Best wishes

Mark Drakeford

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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