

# Press release: Screening consultation on rare but serious condition in babies

The UK's independent expert screening committee is today (4 August 2017) launching a consultation to look at whether screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) in babies should be tried within the NHS.

SCID is a rare inherited condition which makes it more difficult for babies to fight off infections. An infection is not serious for most babies but can be life-threatening for those with SCID, with around 15 to 25 babies born with the condition every year.

The consultation findings will provide valuable information about whether SCID should be added to the existing NHS newborn blood spot screening programme, which currently checks for 9 rare but serious health conditions by taking a blood sample from a baby's heel.

Screening for SCID would use blood from the current heel prick test to check if a baby has a low white blood cell count, which may make them more likely to have infections.

Before a decision can be taken, more needs to be known about:

- whether screening will save lives
- the number of healthy babies found to have low numbers of white blood cells
- what care and treatment is best for babies who are found to have low numbers of white blood cells for reasons other than SCID

Dr Anne Mackie, Director of Programmes for the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC), said:

We currently test babies for 9 rare but serious health conditions as part of the NHS newborn blood spot screening programme. This consultation will consider key organisations' and the public's views on how testing for SCID would work practically within the NHS. We need this information before the Screening Committee can make a recommendation on including SCID as part of the newborn programme.

The consultation will run until early November.

The committee also recommended against screening pregnant women for vasa praevia, a rare condition that can cause heavy bleeding during birth. It had been suggested that screening all pregnant women for the condition could be useful in finding which women might benefit from a caesarean.

Screening was not recommended for a number of reasons, including concerns over the accuracy of the test and that screening would find other, more common, conditions which could lead to a larger number of pregnancies being wrongly considered at risk. The inaccuracy of the test means that some women would be offered an early caesarean when unnecessary.

As part of a regular review process all of the recommendations will be looked at again in 3 years – or earlier if significant new evidence becomes available.

The latest screening recommendations were made at the UK NSC's meeting on 23 June 2017. [Read the minutes](#) which were published today (4 August 2017).

All recommendations will now be considered by ministers.

This press release is issued on behalf of the UK NSC, an independent organisation, by Public Health England (PHE). For more information please call the PHE screening press office:

1. The [UK National Screening Committee](#) is independent of, but supported by PHE.
2. Information on how to participate in the public consultation on SCID is available at: [legacyscreening.phe.org.uk/screening-recommendations](http://legacyscreening.phe.org.uk/screening-recommendations).
3. The committee did not recommend screening for 2 further conditions:
  - tyrosinaemia type 1 (TYR1) in newborns and thrombophilia in all ages.
    - TYR1 is a very rare, inherited condition which prevents the body breaking down an amino acid called tyrosine from food which can lead to the build-up of toxic substances in the blood. If these substances are left untreated they can cause damage, particularly to the liver, kidneys and the nervous system. Screening was not recommended because although the screening test finds most babies with TYR1, there is not enough information to know if the test misses other affected babies. The UK NSC is continuing to work with stakeholders to understand more about the issues.
    - Thrombophilia increases a person's risk of developing blood clots which can be dangerous if they break away and block blood flow to important organs such as the heart, lungs or brain. The condition can cause stroke, heart attack and deep vein thrombosis. Screening pregnant women was considered because women with thrombophilia may be at increased risk of blood clots in their leg, complications such as high blood pressure or the birth of an early or small baby. However, there was no evidence of benefit compared with current practice and inconclusive findings on the safety and effectiveness of treatment. Screening was also not recommended for newborn babies and adults as there was insufficient evidence to suggest that a screening programme would offer more benefit than current practice. There was also not enough evidence about how good the treatment is.
4. The blood spot test screens for the following 9 rare but serious conditions:
  - sickle cell disease
  - cystic fibrosis
  - congenital hypothyroidism

- phenylketonuria (PKU)
  - medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (MCADD)
  - maple syrup urine disease (MSUD)
  - isovaleric acidaemia (IVA)
  - glutaric aciduria type 1 (GA1)
  - homocystinuria (pyridoxine unresponsive) (HCU)
5. Detailed summaries of the recommendations for all of the conditions mentioned can be found at [legacy.screening.nhs.uk/screening-recommendations](https://legacy.screening.nhs.uk/screening-recommendations).
6. [Public Health England](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england) exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health. Follow us on Twitter: [@PHE\\_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk) and our blog [phescreening.blog.gov.uk](https://phescreening.blog.gov.uk).
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## [Press release: Home Secretary opens new Police Investigation Centre in Hampshire](#)

Home Secretary Amber Rudd has officially opened a new Police Investigation Centre (PIC) to serve the northern area of Hampshire.

The centre forms part of the police force's plans for modern facilities to help support the work of officers across Hampshire.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

Police officers and staff in Hampshire and across the country do a fantastic job keeping us all safe. Crimes traditionally measured by the independent survey for England and Wales have fallen by more than a third since 2010.

I am really pleased to open the new investigation centre in Basingstoke because by having modern facilities in the right locations means more officers' time is spent where it matters most – on the frontline, doing vital work to reduce crime in our communities.

The building integrates an investigation hub and custody suite, to drive more efficient and effective working for police officers and staff, especially around the investigation of detainees.

The time saved will ensure arresting officers can return to active policing of the community more quickly.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire Michael Lane said:

I am delighted that the Home Secretary saw first-hand why we all think the opening of this building is a cause of celebration, recognising the delivery of a building that serves our communities through excellent design, build and function.

It provides the best of professional working environments supporting police staff and victims, witnesses, and our partners; as well as creating opportunities for savings through greater efficiency.

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## **Press release: Flood defences put to the test in Northwich**

A selection of temporary and permanent flood barriers, which would be deployed in emergencies, have been put to the test in Northwich.

100 metres of demountable defences were erected and 14 flood gates were closed as part of a live training exercise by the Environment Agency throughout the town centre on Thursday 20th July.

The exercise is the first time the full set of defences, which can be deployed within three hours, have been tested since the launch of the new Northwich flood alleviation scheme last month.

Over the course of the exercise, Environment Agency teams installed and took down demountable defences to practice their emergency plan for the town and ensured the rapid deployment of the additional flood barriers were in good working order.

The operation gave the agency workers valuable experience on the deployment of the equipment and significantly tested its response to future flooding.

Flood Manager at the Environment Agency, Christian Wilcox said:

The £7 million Northwich flood alleviation scheme reduces the flood risk to around 400 homes and businesses throughout the town. Therefore, it was fantastic to see the full set of demountable defences brought into effective action for the first time.

This was a major test of our operational equipment and allowed us to train up the teams who will work on deploying these defences.

Part of the flooding that Northwich has previously experienced has come directly from the River Dane and we were pleased to see that our road closure at Dane Bridge, during the test of the defences, worked extremely well and would provide a good level of signage and a viable alternative route when we need to deploy the defences in earnest.

Overall, it was great to see our practical strategies for flood protection put into action, via our joint working with the Cheshire West and Chester Council who organised the road closure. I hope such collaborative emergency response plans will give reassurance to residents in Northwich but, it is important to remember that we can never fully protect against flooding.

Residents should always prepare in advance for this by going online at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and signing up for free flood warnings. Alternatively, they can telephone the Environment Agency Floodline on 0845 988 1188 and find out what they can do to protect themselves and their property when flooding hits.

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## **Press release: Schoolkids spruce up flood defences in Westy, Warrington**

Flood defences in Warrington have been brought to life thanks to a group of budding Picassos from Cardinal Newman Catholic High School in Westy.

Year 7 pupils, aged between 11 and 12, were challenged by the Environment Agency to put their brush skills to the test and design images of wildlife to decorate walls that make up part of a new flood alleviation scheme.

The designs will face the pavement and be visible to passers-by along Mersey Walk in Westy.

They form part of a £34 million flood risk management scheme throughout Warrington which aims to reduce the risk of flooding to both people and property. The new flood walls are a major aspect of the defences and will cover a total of 7.2km by the time the scheme is completed in autumn 2017.

To spruce up the solid concrete of the walls, pupils took inspiration from some of the local species that live along the River Mersey including fish, amphibians and mammals such as mallards.

The regal kingfisher has also been a key feature with the colourful bird taking pride of place in an earlier phase of the scheme along Knutsford Road.

Speaking about the colourful artwork, Chris Stone of the Environment Agency said:

These lovely features will bring a little of the Mersey wildlife to the new defences, which will provide much greater protection from the risk of flooding to about 2,000 homes and businesses in the Warrington area.

It's our priority to do everything we can to protect people from flooding. We are spending more than £2.5 billion to build flood schemes around the country, which will better protect 300,000 homes by 2021.

The River Mersey Warrington Flood Risk Management Scheme, which is now in its final phase, will enhance flood defence infrastructure, blend in with the local natural and built environment and most importantly, provide best protection to people and property in the town of Warrington. We are grateful to all the pupils from Cardinal Newman Catholic High School who got involved. Their fantastic artwork has really helped us add another point of interest to this very important project.

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## **[Press release: Disqualified director of security company handed 18 months prison](#)**

Mr Quinton's sentence, suspended for two years, relates to his involvement with Limited Risk Limited and Defensa International LLC.

He was also disqualified from being a director for 10 years and ordered to pay costs of £13,818.47.

Mr Quinton's conviction follows a criminal investigation and prosecution by the Criminal Enforcement Team of the Insolvency Service.

Whilst subject to a disqualification undertaking dated 7 October 2009, Michael Graham Quinton acted in the management of both Limited Risk Limited and Defensa International LLC, contrary to section 13 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) investigated Quinton and the Criminal

Enforcement Team, was itself already investigating Quinton. As a result of information shared between the SIA and the Insolvency Service Criminal Enforcement Team, a number of investigative leads were pursued.

Mr Quinton, aged 46, was the CEO of Defensa International LLC, a company which was incorporated in the United States, but carried on its business and had an office in the UK.

He was also the controlling mind of Limited Risk Limited, but in an attempt to avoid the consequences of his disqualification undertaking he used the names of others as directors of the company.

Case lawyer Ian Hatcher from the Insolvency Service said :

This case shows that the Criminal Enforcement Team of Insolvency Service will take action against those individuals who act as directors or are involved in the management of companies when they are not permitted to do so.

Here, a disqualified director attempted to circumvent his ban by incorporating a company abroad and by using the names of others as directors of his British company.

The Criminal Enforcement Team of Insolvency Service was alive to this, and took firm action.

Kevin Young, SIA Partnerships and Investigations Manager, said:

Our investigation of Quinton's business practices relating to the supply of security staff to the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland, and other major sporting events, revealed a pattern of behaviour.

Our investigators at the SIA actively seek to work with partners and the conviction of Michael Quinton shows the value of joint working and sharing of information between the Insolvency Service and Hampshire Police.

### **Notes to editors**

Limited Risk Limited (Company number 08586528), was incorporated on 26 June 2013.

Defensa International LLC was incorporated on 7 January 2011.

Michael Graham Quinton's date of birth is 11 July, 1971. He is of Epsom, Surrey.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures. Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

Further information about the work of the Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team is available at [available](#).

BEIS' mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy that works for all, in particular by creating the conditions for business success and promoting an open global economy. The Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team contributes to this aim by taking action to deter fraud and to regulate the market. They investigate and prosecute a range of offences, primarily relating to personal or company insolvencies.

The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. The SIA's main duties are: the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities; and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme. Further information about the SIA is [available](#).

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You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: \* [Twitter](#) \* [LinkedIn](#) \* [YouTube](#)

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