

## **Blood donation possible after long-term stay in the UK**

A stay of 6 months or longer (during the period 1980-1996) in the United Kingdom (UK) is no longer a reason for exclusion from donating blood or plasma in the Netherlands. Sanquin ends this precautionary measure as of April 7, 2025. The Netherlands is not the first country to abolish this rule: Ireland, Canada, Australia, and the United States preceded it.

### **Ending can be done safely**

On the advice of the Medical Advisory Council, Sanquin is now ending the exclusion after a long stay in the UK, 24 years after its introduction. A careful risk assessment shows that rejecting donors after a stay in the UK during the risk period, hardly contributes to the safety of transfusion in terms of vCJD. The risk is now negligibly small, and continuing the current policy would lead to a form of false security and undesirable exclusion of potential donors.

The absence of new vCJD cases (the last case in the UK was diagnosed in 2016, in the Netherlands in 2008) supports the termination of this measure.

Together with Sanquin, Philips is raising awareness for the need of blood donation. It is for example possible to donate during working hours.

Register now as a donor, via [www.sanquin.nl/goedwerk](http://www.sanquin.nl/goedwerk) / [www.sanquin.nl/jouwbedrijfsnaam](http://www.sanquin.nl/jouwbedrijfsnaam)