**January 2024**

Dear

**Kawasaki Disease and plasma donation**

I am a member of your constituency and I am writing to you to highlight an issue which is very important to me - Kawasaki Disease and plasma donation. A child in my family has been affected by Kawasaki Disease, and this had a big impact on my family. The main treatment for Kawasaki Disease when children are first ill is a special medicine called IVIG, which is made from plasma.

Kawasaki Disease is a serious illness that mainly affects young children. It causes blood vessels to swell, including those in the heart. Without treatment many children suﬀer serious life-long heart damage. Kawasaki Disease is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in children in the UK. 28% of those with Kawasaki Disease will develop serious heart damage. In babies this increases to a huge 39% so Kawasaki Disease really is something we ALL need to know about. I support the UK Foundation for Kawasaki Disease, Societi Foundation and you can find out more from their website: [Societi - The UK Kawasaki Disease Foundation](https://www.societi.org.uk/)

There will be many people within your constituency that rely on medicines made from plasma as it is used to treat 50 different illnesses. Our charity, Societi, is working with NHS Blood and Transplant to hold a **parliamentary event, on Wednesday 20 March**, about Kawasaki Disease and plasma donation. You should have already received a “save the date” from NHS Blood and Transplant.

The UK currently relies on Europe and America for much of its plasma – but as an essential medicine for children and adults in the UK, we want to ensure the UK has a plasma supply to meet its own needs. This will require a huge increase in donations and your support is important in helping to highlight this need.

As my MP I would like it if you would attend this very important event and help to highlight the need for plasma donations and Kawasaki Disease awareness. Please can you let me know if you will attend and help protect children’s hearts in the future? Thank you.

Yours sincerely