

# HUSH NEWSLETTER

## ANNUAL REPORT ON E.COLI O157 IN SCOTLAND 2004

Health Protection Scotland (HPS) established population based enhanced surveillance of E.coli O157 in 1999, to identify trends and changes in the epidemiology and outcome of infection on a national scale. HPS liaise closely with the Scottish E.coli O157 Reference Laboratory and with public health teams throughout Scotland. The information is used primarily to assist risk assessment, risk management and policy development, both locally and nationally.

The recently published report for 2004 shows that between 1st January and 31st December there were 210 reported cases of E.coli O157 in Scotland. This is an increase of 37% over figures for 2003. Following are extracts from the report but full copies are available from HUSH (contact details below).

- Children under 16 accounted for 48% of all cases
- Ages ranged from 4 months to 91 years
- There were 2 deaths—both aged over 50 and neither had HUS or TTP
- 11% of all cases acquired infection outside the UK
- 81% were sporadic infections (not part of any known outbreak)
- The 39 outbreak cases were associated with 11 outbreaks
- Bloody diarrhoea was reported in 62% of patients
- 43% required admission to hospital
- 11% (22 patients) developed HUS
- 6% probably became ill after close contact with someone else who had the infection
- 55% of patients had been exposed to areas where farm animals were grazed or housed, or had contact with the livestock themselves.
- Patients who had regular contact with livestock or their environments (such as living on or next to farms, stables, etc, or working there) were as likely to develop serious complications as those with irregular livestock contact.
- 9 patients were linked to 4 private domestic water supplies that were contaminated with E.coli O157. Two further patients were ill after drinking contaminated burn water.

	<u>SCOTLAND</u>	<u>ENGLAND/ WALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2005	172*	946*	1118*
2004	210	699	909
2003	153	678	831
2002	229	595	824
2001	235	768	1103
2000	197	896	1093
1999	294	1084	1378
1998	217	890	1107
1997	423	1087	1510
1996	506	660	1166
1995	247	797	1044
1994	242	411	653
1993	119	385	504
1992	115	470	585

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Linda Rae, Mary Hanson & Bill Reilly  
(Health Protection Scotland, Glasgow;  
Scottish E.coli O157 Reference Laboratory, Edinburgh)

\* Provisional

LEADERSHIP  
GIZMO  
FIGHT  
AGASSI  
HUSH  
COUCH  
OWN

## IN MEMORY OF DENIS

HUSH member Angie Meenan from Edinburgh contacted the charity earlier in the year to explain her plans for a fundraising ceilidh in memory of her husband, Denis, who had died suddenly from Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS). The ceilidh was timed to coincide with what would have been Denis's 50th birthday and was a huge success. To date £1,542 has been raised, but Angie and her family hope to get the final total up to £1,600.

We asked if Angie would like to tell us about her life without Denis and the following is what she wrote:

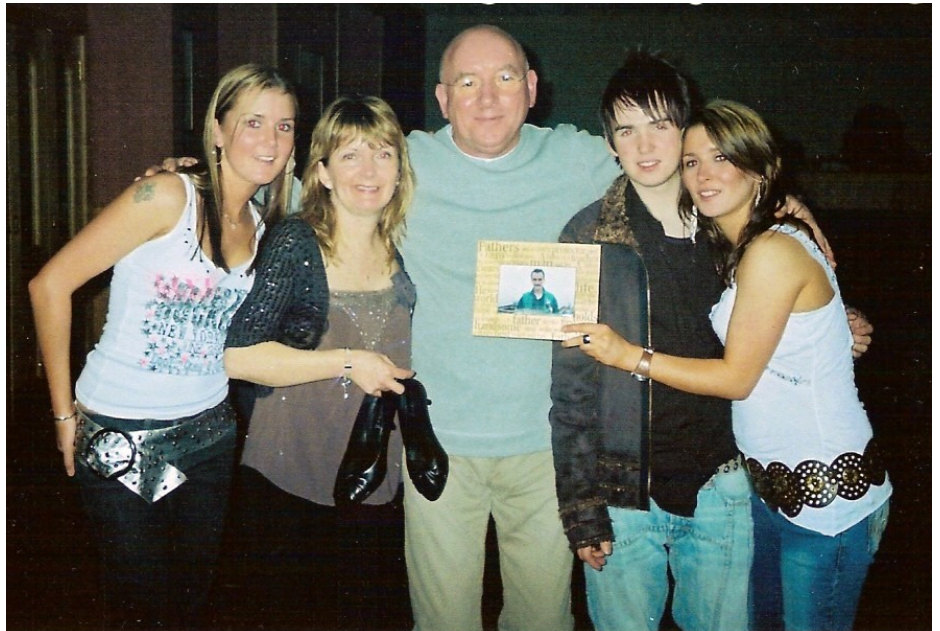
"On 19 September 1999 my husband Denis died suddenly at the age of just 43. I was away for the weekend for my birthday and what started as a wonderful weekend turned into the blackest most awful time of my life. I was only 41 and was left on my own with 3 children aged 17, 14 and 11.

I couldn't understand how my husband, who was fit, a black belt in karate, played five a side football every Saturday morning and was a keen fly fisherman died so suddenly. On the death certificate it had "unknown cause". I was left with so much guilt of not being there for him, not saying goodbye and thinking it was all a bad dream and I would wake up and everything would be like it was before.

About 8 weeks after Denis's death I had a meeting with the Coroner who informed me that my husband had died from Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome. I had never heard of this illness and when it was explained to me I sat there in disbelief. Denis had most probably contracted HUS through his fly fishing. He had been away on a tournament the week before he died.

Since Denis's death I have researched a lot about HUS and I did not realise how the beauty of the countryside can hold such potential dangers.

It is now 6½ years since that black Sunday morning. It has taken my family and myself a long time to accept Denis's death and think about future plans. Our children are now 24, 21 and 17 years, and they have turned out to be my three closest and best friends. I know Denis would be so very proud of them. Our lives will never be the same again but he is always in our thoughts and will be in our hearts and souls for every more. "



Jenny

Angela

Denis's friend  
John

Andrew

Joanna (holding  
photo of Denis)

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## HUSH ON FILM

We were delighted to welcome Per Kristian Orset from Norway along to the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 25th March. Per Kristian is a television film maker who is presently covering an outbreak of E.coli in Norway. After learning that HUSH are the only non-Government organisation involved in E.coli, he was keen to find out more about the aims and work of the charity. Several members were interviewed, along with the charity's Chairman, Paul Santoni.

Since the middle of February there have been 16 recorded cases and one fatality. Norway's Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet) has been trying to find the source of the E.coli O103 bacteria and days after advising Norwegians to throw away ground beef bought this winter, now think it is related to specially prepared sausage meats called spekepolse.

The Norwegian public have been warned against eating the sliced sausage, which is produced by Gilde of Norway and sold throughout the country. Even though the source of the contamination is believed to have been identified and publicised, and suspect meats withdrawn from stores, officials say they can't rule out more illness as the infection has an incubation time of up to a week.