

CLAIMS

1. An ostomy pouch, comprising:
 - an inner wall and an outer wall sealed about at least part of the periphery thereof to define a cavity for containing a stomal output, the cavity including an upper section, a lower section and a waisted section located between the upper section and the lower section; and
 - a filter system, comprising:
 - a vent in the outer wall of the pouch for the release of gas from within the cavity to outside of the pouch; and
 - a pre-filter arrangement comprising a protective panel which defines a filter chamber about the vent, and into which stomal output may enter, in use.
2. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pre-filter arrangement is configured to control the content of stomal output in contact with the vent.
3. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the filter chamber comprises an inlet allowing gaseous stomal output to migrate into the filter chamber.
4. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 3, wherein the inlet comprises one or more apertures in the protective panel.
5. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 4, wherein the one or more apertures comprise a cut or slot in the protective panel.
6. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 5, wherein the one or more apertures comprise a c-cut or an s-cut in the protective panel.
7. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any of claims 4 to 6, wherein the one or more apertures are positioned at a radial distance from the vent.
8. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any of claims 4 to 7, wherein the one or more apertures are angled with respect to a horizontal axis through the pouch, with the pouch in its in-use orientation.

9. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any of claims 3 to 8, wherein the inlet is located above the vent with the pouch in its in-use orientation.
10. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the filter chamber comprises an outlet allowing liquid stomal output to migrate out from the filter chamber.
- 5 11. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 10, when dependent on any of claims 3 to 9, wherein the inlet for the filter chamber acts as the outlet for liquid stomal output.
- 10 12. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein the outlet is formed between the protective panel and the outer wall of the pouch.
13. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 12, wherein the protective panel is attached to the outer wall of the pouch at one or more attachment regions, the one or more attachment regions thereby defining an outlet in the form of one or more gaps between adjacent attachment regions, and/or between an attachment region and the peripheral seal forming the cavity.
- 15 14. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 13, wherein the protective panel is attached to the outer wall of the pouch at the one or more attachment regions by one or more welds.
- 15 20 15. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 14, wherein the one or more welds comprise a plurality of spot welds, the plurality of spot welds defining multiple attachment regions and multiple gaps therebetween.
16. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 14, wherein the one or more welds comprise a pair of, bar welds, the pair of bar welds defining a pair of attachment regions with a single gap therebetween.
- 25 17. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any of claims 10 to 16, wherein the outlet is located below the vent with the pouch in its in-use orientation.
18. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the filter system comprises an odour filter.

19. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the filter system is configured such that the protective panel is positioned within the cavity and defines a filter chamber in the upper section of the pouch.
20. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising a separation
5 wall between the inner and outer walls defining the cavity into first and second cavity chambers.
21. An ostomy pouch as claimed in claim 20 wherein the separation wall comprises a filtering element which is fluid-permeable operable to filter fluid stomal output from solid stomal output.
- 10 22. An ostomy pouch as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising a gas-permeable membrane positioned at least partly over the vent.
23. As ostomy pouch as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising a drain for releasing stomal output from the cavity.