

CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

The twenty first meeting of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority will be held in the Board Room, the Crest, on Wednesday 20 November 1985 at 11.00 a.m.

W P N ARMOUR
Secretary

A G E N D A

PART 1

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September, 1985 (copy attached)

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Minute 79/85 (79.1) Charging for BGRL products to receive a copy of a report from the Secretary (CBLA 85/49) (copy attached)

3.2 Minute 79/85 (79.2) DTI Biotechnology Unit - Downstream Processing

TEXT REMOVED

4. Plasma Supply

To receive a progress report from Mr A Williams, DHSS

5. Redevelopment of BPL

To receive a copy of a report on the redevelopment (CLBA 85/50) (copy to be tabled)

*Spent
noting*

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6. Finance

6.1 To receive a report on the budget (CBLA 85/51)
(copy attached)

6.2 To receive a copy of the forecast estimates 1986/87,
including capital (CBLA 85/52) (copy attached)

7. Production

7.1 To receive a report on BPL Products (CBLA 85/53) (copy
attached)

7.2 To receive a report on BGRL Products (CBLA 85/54) (copy
attached)

8. Pilot Development and Research Requirements at BPL

To receive a copy of a report from the Director BPL (CBLA
85/55) (copy attached)

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11. Welsh Regional BTS - Review

The Director BPL to report

TEXT REMOVED

14. Any Other Business

15. Date of Next Meeting

64/208.

CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

Minutes of the twenty-first meeting of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority held on 20 November, 1985 in the Board Room, the Crest.

Present: Mr R D Smart (Chairman)
Dr H H Gunson
Mr A S Jerwood
Mr M G Storey
Dr D P Thomas
Mr C Walker
Mr G A Wilson
Mr R A Wing

In Attendance: Mr W P N Armour (Secretary)
Dr A M Holburn (Director (BGRL))
Dr R S Lane (Director (BPL))
Dr R Moore (DHSS)
Mr A J Williams (DHSS)
Dr A Smithies (DHSS)

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Dr R Moore who was succeeding Mr A J Williams as DHSS observer. The Chairman thanked Mr Williams for his past assistance to the Authority.

Part 1

92/85 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Mr W V S Seccombe.

93/85 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September, 1985 were approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments: -

Item 79/85 (79.2) sentence to read:

'On the receipt of further information, Mr Williams would report back to the Authority at its November meeting.'

Item 80/85 - First paragraph, second sentence, delete the words 'debate in October' and substitute the word 'interest'

Item 81/85 (81.1) fourth paragraph to read:

'Mr Jerwood confirmed that in order that the contract did not overrun unnecessarily, it was hoped that MHNE fees would be closed down at a final sum of £6.6 million.'

Item 81/85 (81.2) last line, after the word 'design' add:
'and also the current BPL buildings'

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TEXT REMOVED

94.2 DTI Biotechnology Unit - Downstream Processing

Mr Williams said that DHSS, in all probability, would have to advise DTI thoroughly on the Authority's activities. A meeting in the near future therefore between DHSS and DTI was likely.

TEXT REMOVED

TEXT REMOVED

95/85 Plasma Supply

Mr Williams reported an unchanged situation in regard to the expected plasma returns from Regions. He said that DHSS would have to closely monitor the figures already promised from RTC's.

Dr Gunson said that RHA's were currently looking at next year's plans and the matter of plasma supply was now at a critical stage. The Secretary expressed his concern that the problem Regions, in terms of supply, remained a concern and he thought that DHSS would have to continue to exert as much pressure as possible on them.

The impact of AIDS on blood donations was discussed. Dr Gunson said that donations had decreased initially but the situation had been reversed and donations had now actually increased.

96/85 Redevelopment of BPL

The minutes of the meeting of the Project Control Committee held on 15 November, 1985 (CBLA 85/50) were received and noted.

Mr Jerwood gave an outline of the Project Co-ordinator's synopsis on the project to date, which was circulated to members. This was part of the Project Co-ordinator's comprehensive report, currently being finalised, which would be passed to members on completion. Mr Jerwood referred to two particular disturbing issues highlighted in the synopsis, namely the final cost of the project, which in BDP's opinion was now unlikely to be under £43 million and an estimated completion date of July 1986. MHNE had indicated that a further injection of finance into the project could accelerate the programme. The Secretary said that MHNE would have to demonstrate to CBLA how this could be achieved.

The Secretary reported upon a meeting he had held with Mr G Walden, Special Projects Director, MHNE, the previous day to discuss the project delay and MHNE fees. It was noted that Mr Walden would not accept the delay factor; he still believed the project could be completed by the end of March 1986. In answer to a question raised by Dr Gunson, the Secretary and the Director BPL, both supported BDP's view on the timing of the project. It was subsequently agreed that the Secretary should write to Mr Walden requesting written confirmation of his personal commitment to a March 1986 completion. 1

Mr Storey questioned MHNE's professional competence in the project as a whole and expressed the opinion that the matter should be pursued in the courts after project completion. He subsequently asked if the necessary evidence would be available to pursue such a claim. The Secretary confirmed that Deloitte's, auditors were gathering evidence on the claims side as well as determining MHNE's liability. Mr Williams said that CBLA would receive the support of DHSS in any criticism it was likely to make about MHNE. Mr Storey's motion, to pursue a claim against MHNE once the project was completed, was fully supported by Authority members.

Dr Thomas expressed concern that the extra finance needed for the redevelopment might create difficulties in obtaining further cash in the future for new buildings such as an R & D facility.

Mr Williams emphasised the need for DHSS to be provided with information about the official opening of the new building as early as possible.

In reply to a question raised by Mr Williams about fixed fees, the Secretary confirmed that he was about to secure this at a sum of £6.7 million for completion of work. He would send written confirmation to DHSS about this.

Mr Williams reported that the National Audit Office, which generally looked at projects similar to that of BPL, had carried out an exercise on the redevelopment. It was noted that it did have some points to discuss and a NAO representative would approach the Secretary to discuss these. Mr Williams said that the NAO did send interim reports to the PAC and he felt that in all probability this would happen with the BPL project.

97/85 Finance

97.1 Budget Statement

Copies of the budget statement and Secretary's report (CBLA 85/51) were received and noted.

97.2 Forecast Estimates 1986/87

A copy of the revised and forecast estimates 1986/87 and Secretary's report (CBLA 85/52) was received and noted.

The Secretary reported that, because of timing difficulties, the estimates had, on this occasion, been presented in the first instance to DHSS. Mr Williams said that at the present time he was unaware of the Authority's cash limit for the next financial year.

Mr Wing expressed the view that it would be helpful if members could have more specific details of the staff budget with a breakdown of figures. The Secretary agreed to provide this information.

The Chairman, whilst accepting the change in procedure on this occasion, said that the Authority should receive a copy of the estimates prior to their submission to DHSS. It was agreed therefore that the Secretary would prepare a timetable and mechanism for presentation of the figures, firstly to CBLA and then to DHSS.

The estimates for BGRL were discussed. The Director BGRL outlined the reasons for an additional five technician posts and the general rise in expenditure for the laboratory. Mr Williams emphasised the need also, in future, for written explanations to accompany the estimate figures. This was agreed.

97.3 Annual Accounts

The Authority noted that with the agreement of the Statutory Auditor certain minor amendments to the Annual Accounts had been made. These were available to any members who wished to see them.

98/85 Production

98.1 Report on BPL Products

A copy of the report on the production and issue of BPL products (CBLA 85/53) was received and noted.

Dr Gunson asked about the reasons for the fall in the plasma volume processed. The Director BPL explained that 150 tonnes of plasma could not now be handled through the Factor 8Y process. He stressed, however, that the optimum handling of plasma was being undertaken which would assure the best yield.

TEXT REMOVED

99/85 Pilot Development and Research Requirements at BPL

A copy of a report from the Director BPL outlining Pilot Development and Research requirements at BPL (CBLA 85/55) was received and noted.

The Chairman on behalf of CBLA members expressed his appreciation to Dr M J Harvey, Head of Research and Development at BPL for his valuable contribution in the production of the report.

In view of the comprehensive nature of the report, it was agreed that a special meeting of the Authority would be held before the next normal meeting to consider the report in detail. It was agreed that a similar report should be prepared by the Director BGRL for his laboratory to be considered at the special meeting. The Secretary confirmed that similar assistance in its preparation would be made available to the Director BGRL, from Deloitte.

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102/85 Welsh Regional BTS - Review

The Director BPL reported the receipt of a letter from the Welsh Office inviting him to review the NBTS in Wales and to advise on the achievement of self-sufficiency. It was noted the review would take a minimum of ten days and so the Director was seeking a view from the Authority on the advisability or otherwise of his accepting the invitation.

The Chairman expressed the view that the Director's time, at this stage in the redevelopment, was critical and therefore regrettably, he should decline the invitation. Authority members supported this view.

It was agreed however, that if the Welsh Office provided further information on their review, the Authority would try to give assistance by suggesting names of possible alternatives to conduct the assessment.

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105/85 Any Other Business

105.1 The Secretary confirmed the sealing of a document concerned with the transfer of patent rights from the DHSS to CBLA in regard to the purification of albumin by affinity chromatography on an immobilised triazine dye.

106/85 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 28 January, 1986 at Elstree at 11 a.m.

The Directors having completed their contributions received the thanks of the members for their attendance and withdrew.

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