



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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Your reference
Our reference

Dr R S Lane MD MRCPath
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Blood Products Laboratory
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26 February 1979

Dear Richard

Thank you for your letter of 12 February inviting my views on the role which regional initiatives should be allowed to have with respect to the supply of blood products.

At this stage I can only offer some personal reflections on the ideas you have in mind; it will take some time to get a consolidated departmental view.

The idea of providing what is essentially a contract fractionating service for Regions, whereby they receive finished products related in quantity to the amount of plasma they provide, has numerous attractions especially as it would afford an opportunity to drive home the need for continual attention to the quality of the source material.

You explained to me one possibility whereby you accumulated regions' batches until you had sufficient source material from a particular region for a fractionation run. I wonder, however, whether BPL could operate, with the efficiency we are hoping for, on such a basis, but I appreciate that you may possibly see such an arrangement as applying only during an interim phase. I hope that we can look forward to a time when BPL will be processing on the basis of agreed quantities of source materials of defined quality arriving at Elstree at stipulated intervals with the targets fixed for several years ahead, but I realise that this may take some time to organise. Such an arrangement would reflect regional initiatives during the planning stage, but would leave little room for such initiatives subsequently.

However, I will circulate your letter to interested colleagues here and, if you agree, we could meet to talk about your ideas. Until the Department has a clearer view of what it sees as the right course it would be preferable not to involve the RIDs, but I agree that they should be brought into the discussion before we begin to firm up our ideas.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

T E DUTTON

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