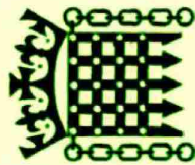


Vijay writes: Sent: FRI 4:32  
6 June 08

Please find attached the questions for the  
2nd department.

From: The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer, Q.C., M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

01- 219 5173

### **Questions to Blood Transfusion Service**

1. Prior to the establishment of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority in 1982, was there any central direction or co-ordination? Was this the Public Health Laboratory Service?
2. What was the structure of BTS prior to 1982? Did it coordinate for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland?
3. Were they in some way integrated into the NHS. If so, how? Please explain the Lister Institute's role. Was it integrated into the NHS? What did it do? How was it funded? Why was it closed?
4. What were the financial arrangements? Was each centre singly provided with an annual budget? Was Government funding channelled through the AHA's and thence to the Centres. Was anything ring-fenced?
5. Did they sell their products to anyone who asked? What was done with the money? Did they promote these products? (In 1985 they began to distribute (not to hospitals etc?) but directly to Haemophilia Centres - and there was a Distribution Charge? In 1979 the Central Supply Contract was ended. Prior to that, how did it work? Who organised it? Afterwards did hospitals and Haemophilia Centres order directly?
6. Did they know before the Owen announcements that there was a greater demand for Factor 8 Concentrate than they could meet? Were they meeting all demands?
7. When Owen announced the self-sufficiency policy had any US commercial products been licensed in this country? When Owen announced in July 1974 that product licenses for Fact 8 concentrate had been issued to the first firms to import it, were those firms licenses ever issued to import it?

In 1974 £ ½ m set aside to increase blood donations:

- (a) was it actually spent?
- (b) he said that half of it was recurring. Was it spent in subsequent years?
- (c) On what was it actually spent?

8. What is the current definition of "the Licensing Authority" (The Ministers have changed). Was this the definition in the 1950s and 60s?

#### **The Department**

- 1. Did Dept (as opposed to committees of medical and scientific professionals) issue information and advice directly to doctors?
- 2. Did the Department enquire about staffing levels and social works and counselling facilities? Did they receive representations?
- 3. Ireland had a National Haemophilia Services Co-ordinating Committee from 1971, but it was non-statutory, and Lindsay criticised its lack of input from the Department. Did the UK consider establishing such a committee – statutory or non-statutory?
- 4. Is there a national policy on counselling or is it left to individual health authorities?

#### **Questions for BPL**

- 1. The processing facilities were inadequate. Even had there been no escalation in demand, could BPL have met the need?
- 2. Had BPL warned of
  - (a) its lack of capacity;
  - (b) its other problems?

3. Was the 1979 Report of the Medicines Inspectorate a surprise?
4. Following the Report of the Medicines Inspectorate they decided on a short-term upgrading to double the existing productivity, at over £1.3m and in 1980 on a new facility at £21m. It escalated to £52m in 1982. When was it completed? What was the total cost? It was to be completed in 1986. Why the delay?
5. Initially, £1m was assigned for improvements. It appears that there was a target of 50m units. Was this for processing? Was it reached?
6. There was an aim announced to double the output. Was this before or after the Medical Inspectorate report?
7. At the meeting of HCD's in Glasgow, 30 September 1980, it was announced that £1m had been authorised to improve facilities at Elstree. But at about the same time Gerard Vaughan was announcing a £21m upgrading. How are these reconciled?

### **The Lost Papers**

There were two categories of papers missing

- (a) Papers passed to (Departments') solicitors for litigation (What litigation?). Apparently the papers returned to the Department, in their folders, but then mislaid. Is this correct?

But the documents had been photocopied and copies were retried from the solicitors. ? all of them ?

- (b) Files for the period September 1994 to March 1998 were "inadvertently destroyed" (para 16).

Does this mean:

- (i) destroyed by accident eg packed up unintentionally with other files; or
- (ii) destroyed because a junior official misunderstood his or her instructions; or
- (iii) destroyed because it was believed that there was no purpose in retaining them?

Both Lord Owen and Lord Jenkin seem to believe that they were given inconsistent explanations.

- (c) Lord Owen's private papers – he seems to have been told that they were destroyed "under the ten-year rule". What rule was this and were papers not vetted before destruction?
- (d) Lord Jenkins' correspondence with the Department suggests no clear knowledge of what had occurred. Were all, or most, of the papers either retrieved or reconstructed from copies?