



NORTH WESTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Director:
H.H. GUNSON, DSc MD FRCP FRCPATH.

Telephone:
061-273 7181 Ext.

REGIONAL TRANSFUSION CENTRE,
PLYMOUTH GROVE,
MANCHESTER,
M13 9LL.

HHG/NP

27th November, 1986

Dr. R.S. Lane,
Director,
Blood Products Laboratory,
Dagger Lane,
ELSTREE,
Herts, WD6 3BX.

Dear *Dr. Lane*

Blood donors from Africa

It has come to my notice that two young Englishmen have been found to be positive of anti-HIV2 (LAV2) following a visit to Africa. Their sera were unreactive with the current Wellcome test for anti-HIV.

I thought I should write to you to not only give you this information, but to stress that this provides evidence that this second AIDS virus has been found in the U.K. and was not detectable with the test most frequently used for screening blood donations. It is important, therefore, that close questioning of donors who have visited Africa is maintained on blood collection sessions so that those who have visited or lived in Africa south of the Sahara since 1978 and who have had sexual relations with men or women living there are permanently excluded from giving blood, in accordance with the recommendations in our most recent AIDS leaflet.

I am sure you will have appropriate methods for this donor selection on your sessions, but undoubtedly this finding brings the matter into sharper focus, since had these two people been blood donors their blood would have been used according to our present criteria. Ian Fraser and I are taking further advice on the matter and our findings will be discussed at the next RTD meeting on 21st January, 1987.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

H. H. Gunson,
Director.

Copy: Dr. J. Cash
Dr. A. Smithies

cc. Dr. T. Snape

2276

4c/212