

Dr Smithies

AIDS LEAFLET

1. Thank you for copying to me your minute and enclosure of 9 May. I apologise for this belated response, due partly to my having been on leave for some of the intervening period. This is a joint response from Mr Cunningham and myself.
2. Mr Cunningham has suggested the following revised wording to the first two sentences of the third section of the draft (under the heading "Who is at risk from AIDS?"):

"If AIDS is caused by a virus, there is no evidence that the virus is transmitted by ordinary, day-to-day contact. There is, however, some indication that certain groups....."

Also, the small amendments to the next section:

"Yes. Although.....be reported. A very close watch....."

These amendments seem sensible.

3. My only comment on the draft text is to support your suggested alternative of "practising homosexuals" for "homosexual or bi-sexual men". To me the former is more neutral than the latter (although I am not quite sure why!) and, as you know, Ministers are very concerned about the sensitivities attached to links between AIDS and homosexual activity

4. You will know that we intend to propose a health education initiative on AIDS. I hope to put a submission forward this week, through Dr Harris, and I will copy it to you and others with the 'blood' interest. The submission will contain a cross-reference to the revision of the blood donation leaflet.

GRO-C

MISS M R EDWARDS

CHD

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Ext GRO-C

23 May 1984

cc

Dr Sibellas

Mr Cunningham

Miss V Brown

Mr A Williams ✓

Mr S Green