

8th May 1996

Ms I D Walker
Secretary
The British Society for Haematology
2 Carlton House Terrace
London
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Item 39

Dear Isobel

Thank you for your letter with regard to the Serious Hazards of Transfusion reporting system initiative. I am hoping that any remaining aspects which the BSH have any concerns about with regard to this initiative will be resolved at a meeting to be held in the near future.

In answer to your second comment, the NBA has made great efforts to ensure that all the consultation documents prior to the re-organisation and the ministerial announcement that took place in November, were made available to every consultant haematologist throughout the country. Obviously it is difficult, whilst going through the implementation of organisational change to ensure that everybody is adequately updated on what is going on. However, I am sure you are aware that Professor Ted Gordon Smith has been appointed by the Minister to Chair a National Blood User Group. The object of this exercise being that communication between all our hospital users and the transfusion service are strengthened and enhanced, and I know that Ted is, at the moment, going through the process of ensuring that there is appropriate representation throughout the country at the local level, zonal level and national level.

The suggestion that the society could be represented on the NBA Board is not one that I can answer as the National Blood Authority is a special health authority and there are rules and regulations about the constitution of such boards, by which we have to abide. You would therefore need to make representation to the Chairman of our special health authority, Sir Colin Walker, at the above address, to determine whether or not such representation could be considered within the ground rules of the constitution of the board of a special health authority. I personally would be very happy at any time to attend any of your meetings to update the BSH on how the NBA is progressing and what the current situation is.

Thank you for your interest. Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

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