



# Mersey Regional Health Authority

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Our Ref. 091/01/MDP/CEH

When telephoning or calling please ask for:

Mr. M.D. Pickering

Your Ref.

11th October 1984

J.A. Parker, Esq.,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Department of Health & Social Security,  
Hannibal House,  
Elephant and Castle,  
London,  
SE1 6TE.

GRO-C  
15/10

Dear Mr. Parker,

## Supply of Plasma to the Blood Products Laboratory

Thank you for your letter of the 10th August, 1984.

The Mersey Regional Health Authority and the Mersey B.T.S. also attaches considerable importance to the question of self-sufficiency in the supply of blood and blood products and sees advantages accruing to the health service in this Region from the expansion of the National Blood Products Laboratory and the increasing potential for health authorities to obtain blood products from N.H.S. Sources. At its meeting on the 22nd February, 1983 the Regional Health Authority received a report from its Director which described in detail the implications for the service of the expansion of the B.P.L. and the measures which need to be taken locally to take up our share of this increased capacity and move towards full self sufficiency.

Various measures which have already been taken or are in process of implementation are:

- 20/10/84
- (1) A programme designed to increase our targets for blood and plasma collection through
    - (a) the rationalisation of donor collection activity by replacing unproductive, inefficient or no longer available venues by alternative and potentially more attractive sessions.
    - (b) increasing the flow of information on which decisions about donor recruitment and donation retrieval can be made.
    - (c) the opening of a City Centre Donor Suite in Liverpool in June 1984.
    - (d) the establishment in Caernavon in September 1984, of a base to provide a centre for the recruitment of donors and the expansion of sessional activity in a potentially productive area from which donation retrieval has hitherto been a difficult and expensive exercise. It is planned to open a similar

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Regional Administrator: D.K. Nichol, M.A., AHA. (continued)  
Regional Nursing Officer: Miss. M.R. Worster, C.B.E., S.R.N.

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J.A. Parker, Esq.,

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(d) (continued)

centre in Wrexham in 1986.

- (2) The introduction of the SAG-M (International Plasma Pack) to increase blood processing capacity and yield of plasma.
- (3) The progressive expansion of the automated plasmapheresis programme by the purchase of Homenetics Model 50 machines.
- (4) A reorganisation of the management and staffing of blood donor sessions.
- (5) The computerisation of the blood donor panels which is underway in 1984.

The Authority has provided the short term funding to meet these and other measures designed to increase the input of both whole blood and of plasma. Nevertheless the targets for the Liverpool R.T.C. do demonstrate the need for a considerable expansion of plasma intake during the period 1985 to 1988 and it is felt that a further reorganisation of activities and an expansion of facilities will be required during this period, including the use of additional staff and the extension of accommodation. Although in the longer term it is anticipated that, by means of the removal of the dependency of health authorities upon commercial blood products, BTS developments will be self-financing, there will clearly be a need for the Authority to continue its investment in the BTS. The Mersey RHA has yet to consider the detailed implications of this phase of development and its officers are currently examining the available alternatives. Every effort will be made to meet the plasma procurement target for this Region and this Authority will keep DHSS officials informed of progress.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Regional General Manager