

Mr Finsberg

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY, ELSTREE

Thank you for your minute of 20 October.

As Accounting Officer, my aim would be to pin responsibility for the project on the Special Health Authority itself, and minimal Departmental involvement.

As against that, I can see some advantage in going along with the Special Health Authority, if it does ask that a DHSS official serve on the project steering group. Even if there is no formal DHSS representation on the steering committee, the Chairman will look to us for informal help and advice: formal membership would carry more weight with other members and strengthens the Department's hand where that is necessary.

The Blood Products Laboratory is rather different from the general run of health authority capital projects, whatever their size since the new BPL will be a national facility, having the whole of the NHS in England and Wales as its customer. I am inclined not to see our involvement as a point of principle but to go along with David Smart's request. But let us discuss when we meet next week.

GRO-C

3 November 1982

K R STOWE

cc

Mr Hulme  
Mr Cashman  
Mr Godfrey

1. Mr G. *[initials]*

2. Mrs Coghlan

Please copy to *[initials]* Walford before filing.

GRO-C

4.11.82

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