

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

PRIVATE OFFICE CASE

Draft reply to reach Private Office
NOT LATER THAN

20/12/86

PO

6

4100

90

Name of
Correspondent

The Rt Hon Tony Benn MP

RELATED PAPERS

Name of
constituent/
person
concerned

Miss G E Buckley

SUBJECT:

Blood

If the file is to be passed to another officer or branch please inform
Private Office by detaching one of the slips below and forward it to
Room D809 AFH.

Name of Correspondent.....

Ref No has been passed to

OFFICER

BRANCH

ADDRESS

Branch

Signed

Name

Tel

Date

Name of Correspondent

Ref No has been passed to

OFFICER

BRANCH

ADDRESS

Branch

Signed

Name

Tel

Date

Name of Correspondent

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Ref No has been passed to

OFFICER

BRANCH

ADDRESS

Branch

Signed

Name

Tel

Date

The attached letter has been acknowledged by Private Office.

Please contact other branches as necessary and prepare a complete draft reply to reach Private Office no later than the due date indicated

Points to Watch

1. Delays: If, exceptionally, a case becomes overdue, or it is known that the due date cannot be met, a full written explanation must be given to the Ministerial Correspondence Section immediately - together with an informative interim as appropriate.
2. Drafting: Please keep drafts short and simple. Files will be returned where necessary. Read 'Our Business' for guidance.
3. Campaigns: Standard replies are required. Clear a draft with Private Office as soon as possible. Background notes with a short covering letter are also a good idea for commonly occurring queries.
4. Enclosures: Please see final minute. 'ENC' or Encs' should be typed at the bottom of the letter followed by the number if there is more than one.
5. Transfers: Please notify Private Office immediately of all transfers. If you receive a jacket without a record of the transfer let PO know immediately.

Special Note

Before this file is returned to Private Office, please ensure that the final minute overleaf has been completed.

THE REPLY SHOULD BE TYPED ON THE APPROPRIATE MINISTERIAL HEADED NOTEPAPER

KATHY O'CONNELL

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

D809

Alexander Fleming House

01-407 5522 ext

GTN **GRO-C**

GRO-C

1) *Mr Williams* *HW*

2) Private Office - Ministerial Correspondence

FINAL MINUTE

To be completed before return of file to Private Office

Private Office
DB09/042
AFH

1. Typed ~~draft~~/letter for approval at right hand tag.
2. ~~Enclosures are contained in PS2 and are:-~~
 - A
 - B
 - C
 - D
3. ~~Copies of the final reply should be sent to other Government depts:-~~
 - A
 - B
 - C
 - D
4. The following special points should be noted:-

(To be continued on separate sheet if necessary)

5. After despatch of reply the file should be returned to:

Name *A. J. Williams* Ext **GRO-C**
Div/Branch *HSIA*
Room *1208* Building *HANH*

GRO-C

GRO-C

GRO-C



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

PO(6)4100/80

The Rt Hon Tony Benn MP

22 JAN 1985

Mr. H. Benn,

Thank you for forwarding the letter of 22 November from Miss G E Buckley about Britain's drive towards self-sufficiency in blood products.

This country has been self-sufficient in whole blood for a number of years now. In 1982, the Government decided that we should achieve self-sufficiency in blood products also, and commissioned the re-building of the Blood Products Laboratory (BPL) at Elstree. In order to get this new factory operating as soon as possible, we have adopted a fast-track design and build method of project management which is the first of its type in the NHS. Construction is on schedule for completion by its original target date of January 1986. There has been no delay in the project through any reduction in financing. The new factory will have the manufacturing capacity to provide the blood product needs of England and Wales.

Self-sufficiency does depend on Regional Health Authority giving priority to the procurement of the substantial amount of additional plasma that BPL will need from National Blood Transfusion Service donors. Regions have been reminded of the need to ensure they meet the plasma procurement targets the Department set for them in 1981. Discussions are continuing with the few Regions where such action has not yet been taken.

We are acutely aware of the anxiety Miss Buckley's relative and all haemophiliacs must suffer and I recently met representatives of the Haemophilia Society to explain to them the steps the Government was taking to deal with this problem. I hope Miss Buckley will be reassured by the actions I have described.

John Birt

GRO-C

THE LORD GLENARTHUR



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Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

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Yours sincerely

GRO-C

THE LORD GLENARTHUR

From Tony Benn MP

Blood 6

Valley Regional Council

Can you help with the enclosed ?

Unless your reply contains confidential information I would be grateful if you could send it direct to my correspondent with a copy to be sent to me for my files, together with the material I have sent to you.

Any confidential letter should still come to me so that I can send an appropriate response.

GRO-C

22/11/84

From Tony Benn MP

Blood 6 Valley

Can you help with the enclosed ?

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GRO-C

Albion

GRO-C

22. 11. 84

Mr. Tony Benn M.P.
The House of Commons
London

Dear Mr. Benn,

1 535 DHS

I was surprised & shocked
to read in the Guardian on Tuesday
that a £21 million plan to make
Britain self-sufficient in blood products
has been delayed by the Government
Health Cuts. It quoted Mr. John Patten
stating that Britain would not be
self-sufficient until late 1986.

A Television specialist advised that
Britain would not be self-sufficient
even then, unless Health Ministers have
prepared to spend an extra £1 million
a year to produce the raw material
blood plasma, but ministers have
no plan to do so.

This is both disappointing &
distressing.

I wrote to Eric Varley several

✓

years ago about this matter & he sent
me the minister's reply, which stated
that Britain hoped to be self-sufficient
by 1934. (at least)
When one has experienced having an
haemophilic - the family you
realize that factor 8 is a life line
to the sufferer.

My niece's eldest boy (14 years of age)
is a haemophilic, who needs
injections of factor 8 almost every
week, & when he has a bad bleed
has to spend time in hospital &
have several injections.

You can imagine our anxiety
at the thought that the injections
may contain the "Aids" virus, &
could mean death.

Stephen listens to the news &
reads the papers about 'Aids' & becomes
very distressed.

May I appeal for your help in
the matter. To make Britain
self-sufficient, without having to import
blood from America is vitally
important.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Miss)

GRO-C