

encouraged to report it to his or her manager whose immediate responsibility it is to ensure that suitable action is taken.

Hepatitis C

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what is the percentage of blood donors shown to have hepatitis C in random tests carried out by the national blood transfusion service;

(2) whether he proposes to introduce screening of blood donors for hepatitis C;

(3) whether supplies of stored blood plasma are checked for indications of hepatitis C.

Mr. Freeman: A screening test for antibodies to hepatitis C has been available only since the middle of the year, and no confirmatory test is at present available. In a preliminary study the national blood transfusion service examined frozen blood samples, but this work cannot be used to predict likely infection in fresh blood donations.

A systematic evaluation of the test on 15,000 donations at three transfusion centres is currently in progress. Results are not yet available. The introduction of the test for all blood donations is under review and will depend on the results of the evaluation and other scientific evidence supporting its benefit. Stored plasma is not tested for hepatitis C. It has not yet been shown that the test would reduce the possibility of transmission of disease in fractionated plasma products.

Cancer

Mr. Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what were the rates of cancer of the breast and cervix in the north-east of England for those aged (a) 20 to 25 years, (b) 25 to 30 years, (c) 30 to 35 years, (d) 35 to 40 years, (e) 40 to 45 years, (f) 45 to 50 years, and (g) 50 to 55 years, and; what were the average rates for the rest of the United Kingdom for the same age groups, for each year from 1980; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Freeman: The exact information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However, some information for the period 1980-84 is shown in the table.

Newly diagnosed cases of cancer rates (per 100,000 population) for female breast¹ and the cervix uteri² by age group for Northern regional health authority, Yorkshire regional health authority and the United Kingdom: 1980-84

TABLE 1
Malignant neoplasm of the female breast

Year and age group	Northern RHA	Yorkshire RHA	United Kingdom
1980			
20-24	0.86	1.53	0.24
25-29	6.72	5.94	1.84
30-34	27.78	26.78	7.87
35-39	44.35	41.67	21.76
40-44	98.10	97.83	41.64
45-49	151.69	153.37	68.55
50-54	146.47	123.42	86.08
1981			
20-24	1.70	0.75	0.19
25-29	7.66	9.39	2.85
30-34	26.57	20.50	8.33
35-39	64.94	61.36	19.53
40-44	88.84	114.00	38.60
45-49	128.00	134.28	68.87

Year and age group	Northern RHA	Yorkshire RHA	United Kingdom
50-54	113.61	147.06	88.83
1982			
20-24	—	0.73	0.23
25-29	9.63	3.38	1.83
30-34	24.34	14.47	8.77
35-39	64.23	45.30	19.63
40-44	109.20	94.38	39.56
45-49	144.66	146.79	68.66
50-54	123.51	140.59	87.85
1983			
20-24	1.63	0.71	0.14
25-29	3.83	6.71	2.33
30-34	22.12	21.67	8.05
35-39	38.61	47.35	20.61
40-44	82.19	96.93	38.12
45-49	147.64	138.24	64.57
50-54	120.98	155.31	89.64
1984			
20-24	1.60	2.07	0.48
25-29	10.32	4.90	2.69
30-34	28.38	27.90	8.75
35-39	48.71	47.92	20.68
40-44	71.83	103.68	37.19
45-49	126.28	141.42	65.43
50-54	144.47	138.07	87.11

TABLE 2
Malignant neoplasm of the cervix uteri

Year and age group	Northern RHA	Yorkshire RHA	United Kingdom
1980			
20-24	1.73	4.60	0.93
25-29	9.61	7.63	2.74
30-34	18.82	21.42	4.78
35-39	26.61	28.41	6.98
40-44	18.95	26.68	7.70
45-49	15.73	14.13	9.91
50-54	28.45	30.13	14.03
1981			
20-24	1.70	2.24	0.80
25-29	9.58	17.08	3.11
30-34	15.06	23.54	6.02
35-39	19.48	27.47	7.02
40-44	20.50	27.00	9.60
45-49	13.71	27.47	9.67
50-54	30.01	25.49	13.19
1982			
20-24	1.66	2.92	0.69
25-29	12.52	17.77	2.31
30-34	15.92	27.33	5.88
35-39	17.79	28.52	6.80
40-44	25.29	39.16	10.66
45-49	20.67	18.35	10.72
50-54	20.59	17.82	10.50
1983			
20-24	0.82	5.66	0.50
25-29	13.40	22.65	3.73
30-34	31.15	35.00	6.85
35-39	18.83	22.47	7.09
40-44	27.40	27.70	8.68
45-49	16.15	26.24	10.11
50-54	23.31	22.04	12.36
1984			
20-24	0.80	2.76	0.35
25-29	10.32	13.88	4.32
30-34	29.35	32.97	5.30
35-39	19.30	36.92	7.35
40-44	19.08	31.98	10.08

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Environmentally Friendly Technology

124. **Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what is his estimate of the value of the global market in environmentally friendly technology; and what steps he is taking to urge British companies to take a major share of this market.

Mr. Forth: Environmentally friendly technology is a portmanteau term which can be applied to an enormous selection of goods and services, from biodegradable washing powder to the fitting of flue gas desulphurisation processes to power stations. It is, therefore, impossible to state a single figure for the global market. However, the current estimate of the world market for pollution control products and services is £100 billion a year.

The Department of Trade and Industry has set up the business and the environment unit (BEU) to focus on specific key areas of the DTI environmental programme, such as waste management, clean technology and pollution control. The BEU helps United Kingdom companies to exploit the market opportunities for clean technology, pollution control equipment and services, and for other environmentally-friendly products. It gathers and maintains information on standards and world markets, assists United Kingdom companies to take advantage of the various support schemes available in this field and encourages United Kingdom companies to participate in environmental technology exhibitions at home and abroad.

British Aerospace (Rover Deal)

Mr. Gordon Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish the correspondence between British Aerospace and the Government over the future of the golden share.

Mr. Ridley: Correspondence between British Aerospace and the Government over the future of the golden share from 1985 (when British Aerospace made its initial request to raise the foreign shareholding limit), to August 1989 when I decided to raise the BAe and Rolls-Royce limits following agreement with the European Commission, took place on the basis of commercial confidentiality. At the time of the Rover Group sale my right hon. and noble Friend, the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, made it clear, as can be seen from his letter of 12 July which I have sent to the hon. Member, that he was sympathetic to BAe's case for a relaxation of the limit. The detailed proposals for raising the limit, common to both companies, had to be decided in consultation with the Commission which had since 1987 queried compatibility at the 15 per cent. foreign shareholding with EC law.

Mr. Gordon Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what he now estimates to be the value of the tax concessions made to British Aerospace during the Rover negotiations.

Mr. Ridley: No tax concessions were made to British Aerospace during the Rover negotiations. On the contrary, contractual arrangements were put in place effectively to deny Rover Group the benefit of tax losses in excess of £500 million which the group was entitled to carry forward under United Kingdom tax law. In that connection, the position remains subject to any applicability of section 768 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, on which British Aerospace may seek a view from the Inland Revenue in accordance with the terms of the correspondence between British Aerospace's advisers and the Inland Revenue which has been made available to the Public Accounts Committee.

As explained at the time of the final deal, certain contractual ring-fencing arrangements agreed in the March conditional terms were lifted so that the final contractual position with regard to disclaimed capital allowances and capital losses was no more, and no less, restrictive than under normal revenue law.

Blood Products

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what is the quantity and value of imported blood products, distinguishing between factor 8 and other blood products, in each year since 1980.

Mr. Freeman: I have been asked to reply.

The information held centrally relates only to the usage of imported factor 8 concentrate and is given in the table. Information on the value of these imports is not held centrally.

United Kingdom usage of imported Factor 8 concentrate (millions of international units).

	Number
1980	135.1
1981	135.5
1982	145.6
1983	139.5
1984	138.5
1985	50.9
1986	53.8
1987	59.2
1988	55.2

¹ Does not include users with acquired haemophilia.

Export Initiative

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what was the number, nature and size of charges made for services under the export initiative (a) in March 1989, and (b) in October 1989.

Mr. Redwood: The information requested is as follows: