

3/16



EDINBURGH & S.E. SCOTLAND
BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

*Please copy to
Dr. Melkers
Dr. Nicholas
Mr. Seafeld
Mr. Bunge*

GRO-C

JG/AB/

6 April, 1995

copy

Mr Bunge. (no reply to date)

Dr Andre Rehman
Department of Health
Eileen House
LONDON
SE1 6EF

*Please check whether Dr Robinson has
a copy - and ask when she will
have a contribution ref. the N. London
stored samples.*

GRO-C

Dear Dr Rehman

HEPATITIS C LOOKBACK

At the last meeting of the ad hoc working party I promised to look at the feasibility of testing the stored serum samples from the period January 1990 to the end of August 1991, to consider whether there may be some way of avoiding testing those donations from donors who had subsequently attended and been tested.

The short answer is that there is no easy way of identifying such donations, and by far the most straightforward way of undertaking this exercise, in the Edinburgh centre at any rate, would be simply to thaw and test the samples, as they are frozen in microtitre trays and this would preserve a high degree of sample identification. For this region the testing would entail expenditure of approximately £200,000 for test kits, and approximately 1,000 man hours of over time would be required, equating to approximately £10,000. It would be reasonable to extrapolate these figures to the whole of Scotland, and therefore somewhere around £1,000,000 would be necessary. By extrapolating from our pilot studies, I would guess that this would lead to the detection of around 60-70 living recipients who received HCV infected blood.

Yours sincerely

= c. £15,000 per person.

GRO-C

Dr J Gillon
Consultant Physician

cc: Professor J D Cash, SNBTS HQ, Ellens Glen Road, Edinburgh
Dr Aileen Keel, Scottish Office, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Blood Donor Centre

Lauriston Building, 41 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9HB
Main line (0131) 536 5300 Donor Line (0131) 536 5360 Fax (0131) 536 5301

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