

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switafwrdd)
GRO-C (Llinell Union)
Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru



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CT 5910/85
WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2E
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
GRO-C (Direct Line)
From The Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

cc. PS / Pass (m)
Mr. J. H. Lightman
PS / Perm Sec.
Dr. G. Crompton
Dr. J. A. V. Pritchard
Mrs Y. Moores.

11 December 1985

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

J. Norman

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

Thank you for your letter of 15 November.

I am grateful for the comprehensive reply which you have given and for the reassurance that it provides. I regard confidence in the effectiveness of these testing arrangements as a matter of the first importance. That confidence must start with Ministers. Although you have not acknowledged it, I hope that you regard my letter of 18 October as a constructive contribution to its establishment. At that time, and I understand that much has been done since, my officials were not able to satisfy me during a personal briefing (as yours had been unable to satisfy them) that all was well. I have made it clear that I expect any further doubts to be drawn to my attention should that be necessary.

Far from seeking to diminish Government's achievement in providing mass screening, my intention was to establish that the achievement was real and not illusory. I am as glad to rejoice in the former, as I should have been disappointed to be pilloried for the latter.

J. Norman

GRO-C

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP
Secretary of State for Social Services
Department of Health and Social Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle
LONDON
SE1 6BY