



[CBL 22 - VOL 8]

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Telephone **GRO-C**

From the Chief Medical Officer

Sir Donald Acheson

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1 November 1990

Dear Mr Watters,

Thank you for your letter of 22 August about the UK view of European self-sufficiency in blood products. I am sorry for the delay in replying. A short statement of the UK's position is attached.

*Comd*  
*Sincerely*

GRO-C: Sir Donald Acheson

Enc

cc. Frickson EHF  
 Dr Metters DMO  
 Dr Pickles ISD  
 Dr Rejman ISD  
 Mr Aswell SO  
 Ms Brett-Holt SO  
 Dr Purves MCA  
 Mr G Tucker SHHD

18/2/9

SUPPLY OF BLOOD PRODUCTS: THE UK VIEW

Since 1976 it has been government policy that the UK with its long tradition of voluntary blood donation should be self-sufficient in blood products. This position is entirely consistent with the more recent decision by the EC to promote a policy of community self-sufficiency based on voluntary blood donation.

At the same time, Ministers accord great importance to the principle of clinical freedom. Where therefore a doctor decides, in the light of the available clinical information, that a particular product is indicated for a particular patient, we believe that this decision should be respected even if that product has to be imported from outside the EC. The principle of self-sufficiency therefore means that the supplies of domestically sourced blood products should be sufficient, both in range and quantity, to meet the needs of all patients whose clinicians prefer these to other available products.

Department of Health

October 1990