



Glasgow and West of Scotland Blood Transfusion Service

Regional Headquarters and Laboratories

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Please Reply to:

GSG/SB

24 April 1987

Dr R Mitchell
LAW

Dear Ruthven

HIV Self Exclusion Clause 4:

"Anyone who has lived in, or visited Africa, South of the Sahara at any time since 1977 and has had transfusions, injections of any kind, or sex with women living there."

I have omitted the phrase "sex with men living there" because it is already covered in clause 1.

I also feel we have no option but to accept the word of the donors as "truthful" this is the paradoxical strength of the voluntary altruistic donor system and its major weakness.

It is impractical and unworkable to consider the donors answer to our check list as suspect because they are "compulsive liars" or "embarrassed" by their colleagues or wives etc. It is also unacceptable to refuse donors who visited Africa across the board. Clause 4 is clear, it does not require embarrassing questioning or enquiries by the medical staff - either it applies or it does not.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

G S Gabra
Consultant