

For file 44

Mr Macpherson,
To see plans. 10.15.1974

~~Mr. P. B. G. G.~~
Seen 10.15.1974. I understand
from Dr. P. B. G. G. that Mr. Watt
& Dr. Cash are producing further
material for the tax review.

Mr Sinclair

Copy to - Dr Scott
Mr Macpherson ✓

FUTURE EXPANSION OF PFC

1 At a recent meeting with Mr Watt and DHSS officials which Dr Gilray also attended, Mr Watt stated that the Medicines Inspectorate had recommended certain modifications to the existing plant which had been costed at £6.9m. This, together with additional storage space costed at £1.3m, would increase the production capacity of PFC to 10 tonnes of plasma per week; the current work-load being only 0.9 tonnes per week. He said that come August with Scottish and Northern Ireland blood on stream the throughput would reach 1.4 tonnes and this would necessitate the introduction of a two-shift system. By 1990 the amount of plasma from Scotland and Ulster would provide 2 tonnes per week. Mr Watt added that in his experience the plant could only run efficiently and safely at 60% capacity and this would mean that by 1990 PFC would be equipped to process an additional 4 tonnes of plasma a week. (16/14)

2 I am not aware of any moves that had been made since the letter from DHSS which indicated the exclusion of PFC from the English plans. Nevertheless, given the acquisition of blood from Northern Ireland and the PFC proposal to change to a two-shift system by August 1982, fairly urgent action is required on the Whitley front if we are to meet an August deadline for shift working. We are currently awaiting information from PFC, via CSA, on how it sees the involvement of a grading structure and a shift working system. Mr Watt hinted that he is not prepared to put forward any proposals until his own position is clear - whatever that may mean.

3 I would welcome some guidance on how to take this matter forward within the Whitley Division without encroaching on other Divisional responsibilities.

M P SIVELL
7 April 1982

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