

NORTHERN IRELAND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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25th January 1985

Dr A Smithies
Principal Medical Officer
Department of Health & Social Security
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T.
at Mr. [unclear]
re Arthur.

Dear Dr Smithies

Thank you for your letter on the subject of prevention of transmission of AIDS through blood donation.

In Northern Ireland the following approach has been adopted. Until recently, we relied on the display of AIDS leaflets on all sessions. From about 6 weeks ago, we have been handing a leaflet to each individual donor. The drawbacks which have been noticed are, firstly, that donors often have insufficient time, in practice, to read the leaflet properly before donating. Secondly, a few individuals have shown resentment at being handed the leaflet. A potential problem is, of course, the difficulty for any donor to exclude themselves at a donor session, but perhaps not suprisingly it is one we have not been made aware of.

I am sure it is desirable to send an AIDS leaflet to each donor with the call-up letter. At present this is not possible since we use post cards to call donors and have not the clerical capacity to send enclosed leaflets. During the coming year this will change, with the advent of a computerised donor call-up system, combined with the use of an automatic enveloper. The problem of informing donors who are not called individually will of course remain, i.e. those who donate at their place of work. We are now supplying local organisers at such sessions with AIDS leaflets.

I hope this information is of some help and I look forward to receiving the up-dated AIDS leaflet.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

W M McCLELLAND
DIRECTOR

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