

Reference.....

BLK/5

Mrs King for file please

Mr Staniforth, FA 2

GRO-C

29/11

Blood Test for Aids - Bid for £2M for 1985-86.

As discussed by telephone with Mr Lillywhite, the relative impression of our bid (estimate of £1 per test x 2 million donations p.a.) should not be confused with the high priority which we attach to the need for such a test.

At present a U.K. test is being developed, and it is known that a U.S.A. commercial test (or tests) is likely to be launched soon; it is thus almost certain that some test will be available by the start of financial year 1985-86. The Department will be unable to resist pressure (to indeed on policy grounds would support the move) to introduce a test to show that every blood donation (whether for immediate blood transfusion and/or subsequent manufacture of blood products) is free from AIDS contamination.

It is anticipated that Ministers, to secure the credibility & reputation of the NBS, & BPL's blood products, will wish to instruct RHA's Regional Transfusion Centres to adopt the new test. Presentationally this would be better done with offers of funding assistance rather than as the imposition of a Ministerial priority to be funded from within RAWP allocation.

c.c. Dr Smithers

Mr Arthur - for file ✓

GRO-C: Alun Williams

HS. 1A.

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Hannibal House

26/10/84.