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HPD (Head) Documents - Unformatted Document

"Blood Team - Secondments"

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Richard Gutowski

06/05/2004 10:39

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Subject: Blood Team -
Secondments

Gerard

Just to let you know that Tom Kelly has now joined us on a year's secondment from the National Blood Service to help with the transposition of the Blood Safety Directive. Work is now moving ahead quickly and meetings are taking place with key stakeholders - that said the 5 February 2005 coming into force date will be tight and we may need to invoke the 9 month extension allowed for in the Directive if we can.

I am near to completion of the paper on better use of blood. We will need to get some form of agreement on its basic parameters before the 7th June when CMO attends the function hosted by the Blood Service with the Royal Colleges and members of the National Blood Transfusion Committee. At the moment I am considering some form of increased awareness campaign and publicity both for Trusts and the public. In addition we will need to consider how to encourage Trusts to set up Hospital Transfusion Teams to promote good transfusion practice perhaps linked to some form of performance indicator. This could be linked to the Emergency Blood Management Plan we are currently working on in the event of blood shortages. There is also the option of creating a Blood Tsar to take this forward. If David Harper and CMO agree that this is the way forward we need to set up a small working group to develop the ideas particularly if we go down the performance indicator route where I have no expertise. We have told Melanie Johnson that the new measures should start to kick in early next year. I have been trying to arrange another secondment from the Blood Service to support us in this work. I have spoken to Jean Harrison a Consultant Haematologist based in the Brentwood Blood Centre who would like to do the work. Unfortunately due to other pressures she can only work one day a week for us but she has suggested that perhaps we could appoint a Research Assistant to take forward the day to day work for her. She happens to have such an assistant coming to an end of a contract. This

seems an ideal compromise but whilst Jean's salary would still be covered by the Blood Service we would have to fund the Research Assistant. The question therefore is can we do this and do we have the money.

When we last met Melanie Johnson she gave us three months to sort out the problem of accusations of self sufficiency of blood and the shredding of Lord Owen's papers. We have a report produced - the Burgin Report - but it is not in form to be published or conclusions drawn from it. We agreed I should pursue appointing a medical writer to redraft the Report in a more robust form. I am meeting Adam Jacobs from a medical consultancy next Friday to see whether they are able to take on the work. Ideally I would have liked Hugh Nicholas to get involved in assessing whether the decisions made at the time stand up in the light of the knowledge at the time and the information available. Unfortunately he is tied up with work on the Hep C Strategy and the Hep C Payment Scheme Application Form. If the Consultancy Firm feel that they are able to do the work the same question then applies, have we the money.

Richard

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