

TBL 15 X TBL 148
TBL 148 X TBL 148

POLICY IN CONFIDENCE

Dr Metters
Dr Rejman
Mr Canavan

From: Melanie Harper PS/PS(H)

Date: 4 February 1994

cc: Recipients of Dr Rejman
and Mr Canavan's
submission of 18 January
Dr Bourdillon
Dr Nicholas
Dr Halliday

THE BIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF BLOOD: SCREENING FOR RARE VIRAL
INFECTIONS AND ANTI-HBc ANTIBODY (ANTI-HBc)

1. This note records the points agreed by PS(H) at the meeting last week to discuss the submissions of 18 January and 4 November:

(i) PS(H) approved the advice of the MSBT that the present position should be maintained on Anti-HBc and that routine testing of blood (and tissue/organs) should not yet be introduced. However, the situation should be kept under regular review by the Advisory Committee.

(ii) PS(H) did not approve the principle of ex-gratia payments as set out in the 18 January submission. He understood that this line could be defended on the grounds that the tests in question were not yet scientifically robust enough to be introduced. However, as with the issue of Anti-HBc, the position would be reviewed by Ministers if the tests were developed to such a point that routine testing by NBTS was viable.

2. The upshot of this is that no further work is needed on this by DH at present except to ask the Advisory Committee to keep the situation under review.

GRO-C

Ms M Harper
414 RH ext GRO-C

COPY:

PS/SofS
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PS/PS(L)
PS/Perm Sec
Dr McGovern
Dr Winyard
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Mr Heppell
Dr Pickles
Mr Scofield
Mr Milledge
Mr Paley
Mr Gooderham