

SGH.002.7293

42

Mr Davies

Copies to Dr Scott
Dr McIntyre
Mr Robertson

AIDS - TESTING OF BLOOD DONORS

1. I refer to your minute of 7 February asking Dr Scott for guidance as to what advice we should give Ministers on whether all donations of blood in Scotland should be tested for the presence of antibodies to HTLV III, now that DHSS Ministers have agreed, albeit with reluctance, that this should be done in England.
2. I accept the validity of all you say in support of the proposition that we should not take similar action in Scotland; but I very much doubt if we can hold this line now that English blood donations are being tested. It is now more a question of public presentation than a matter of medical judgement, and the pressure on us to follow the English example will be irresistible.
3. I have now seen Dr Scott's minute of 8 February and agree that we should have an office discussion about the advice that we should give Ministers on this difficult issue. It would be helpful if Dr Cash could be present at our discussion.


A M MACPHERSON
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