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Dr Elizabeth Mayne
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Dear Elizabeth

I am writing about your letter of 1 December to Dr R Perry, Director of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, which cut across correspondence between the Scottish Home and Health Department and this Department. We were asked what authority you had to issue the instruction in that letter and the answer is that you did not have authority. Services provided by one Department for another have to be formally agreed and indeed officials of this Department would normally keep the Minister informed of arrangements of this kind.

I do appreciate that the proposals in this case were sound. It is useful to have agreement between consultants and I am very happy to encourage clinicians to take initiatives. However it is important to realise that arrangements usually require the formal agreement of Boards, and in some cases may also involve this or other Departments.

I am sorry to be writing in these terms but it is important to try to avoid the crossing of lines. I am happy to be able to add that formal agreement to the proposals will issue shortly.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

J/F McKENNA
Chief Medical Officer

c.c. Dr M McClelland
Director, NIBTS