

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH

HAEMATOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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Your Ref.:

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9th February, 1981

Dr. J. D. Cash,
Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service,
Woodburn House,
Canaan Lane,
EDINBURGH,

Dear John,

I gather that plans are under way to enable PFC to process English plasma. I write to ask whether English and Scottish will be pooled to manufacture blood products or whether English plasma will be processed separately. I am interested on two accounts. Firstly, because of the possibility that all English centres are not currently screening individual donations by ~~RIA~~ or hepatitis B tests of equivalent sensitivity. Secondly the incidences and aetiology(s) of NANB hepatitis may be different south of Berwick. I think we are all keen to keep Edinburgh haemophiliacs as far as possible free from commercial factor VIII but it would be nice to be able to continue to give them factor VIII derivative from local plasma. It is not that I am nationalistic but merely wish to concur with the Council of Europe recommendation No. R(80)5 as accepted by the meeting at St. Andrews House last week!!

I am trying to tie up the ends of a project that Howard Davies started some time ago in relation to the hepatitis B status of haemophiliacs over the period 1971-1980. I should like to relate the findings to the methods used to screen donations for HB_s Ag. Can you tell me when RIA testing was introduced throughout Scotland?

Can you also give me an indication of the time delay between FFP being sent to PFC and intermediate VIII being issued for patient use. I appreciate that this may be somewhat variable but an approximate time would be useful.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

C. A. Ludlam
Consultant Haematologist