



SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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JDC/EP

14th March 1985

Mr J G Davies
Scottish Home & Health Department
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH

Dear John

HTLV-III antibody assays

We now have some more up to date information on the likely cost of HTLV-III antibody testing - in terms of the purchase of kits only to undertake primary testing (not reference work). The price quoted to us is £1.63 per test from the only manufacturer that has so far received an FDA licence.

This would suggest that the annual cost to the SNBTS for the purchase of this manufacturer's kits would be in the region of £495,000. To this we will have to add reference cost work (I'm working on this) and perhaps some staffing costs.

It's difficult, at the moment, to gauge when "the whistle will blow" for testing to commence. The DHSS Kit Evaluation Group have not yet begun their laboratory work. I would judge it will not start before May 1985 and may take 2 months to complete testing and analysis. I would therefore suggest September is a likely date - we will therefore be looking for at least a 6 month funding window (approximately £250,000) in the financial year 1985/86.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

John D Cash

Copy to:
Treasurer