

Mr Morrison
Ch. Bell

GA.
41

Mr Davies

Copy to Mr Murray ✓

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY: BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE

The following issues requiring further consideration or action by us arose at the meeting of the CSA Blood Transfusion Service Sub-Committee on Wednesday 21 November.

SNBTA: Commercial Interface

The proposals were approved. The following people were appointed to the Commercial Interface Steering Group -

- Mr Purves (Management Committee member)
- Dr Cash (National Medical Director)
- Dr Bell (Medical Representative from SHHD)
- Mr Mutch (all alternate representing administration)
- Mr Morrison (or alternate representing finance)

Representatives from the Chief Scientist's Office and the Business/Scientific Broker have still to be appointed. I stressed the need for appropriate competition for the latter position.

The Agency propose to publicise the developments on commercial interface by means of a suitable Press notice. In the first instance, the Sub-Committee will consider a draft prepared by Dr Cash. Thereafter they will require some professional input. They were under the impression that SIO would put the notice out.

I should be grateful if you would explore with SIO whether they would be prepared to help in the preparation of appropriate material, and the arrangements for issuing it to the Press. Could you advise me please who is in fact responsible.

Home Defence Planning: Blood Bag Stocks

The Sub-Committee endorsed Dr Cash's proposals to increase the SHS blood bag stocks to a maximum of six months. I pointed out the difficulties, and the need to take a view of priorities; the Sub-Committee were not, however, inclined to await the arrival of the CSA Civil Defence Adviser before approaching the Department. We can consider the line of response when we receive the Agency's proposals. In the meantime, I have asked Dr Cash to let me know the timescale for ordering and paying for blood bags: there may be scope to expand the stock, if this seems sensible in the circumstances, towards the end of the current financial year.

Vehicle Programme

The programme was approved. It was noted that all of the vehicles apart from the estate cars to be provided in the south-east, east, north-east and PFC would be diesels. This was on the advice of the Scottish Office Motor Transport Unit. There was some discussion of the relative advantage of diesel: some members at least seem to think that diesel was difficult to start and did not offer significant savings.

The Sub-Committee agreed to ask the MTH for a note on the subject. I presume that the Secretariat will approach us to seek such a note; you may however wish to alert MTH at this stage.

AIDS

There was discussion of recent Press coverage which highlighted action being taken in England and Wales and did not refer to the self-sufficiency in Factor VIII attained in Scotland. Professor Girdwood had written to the Agency suggesting that Dr Cash or the Chairman should write to the newspapers to set the record straight. I strongly discouraged this. Dr Cash explained that he had been taking steps to brief journalists on the Scottish situation. The Committee agreed to take no further action until the results were visible; thereafter Dr Cash and the Chairman should have discretion to take whatever action they thought best.

Dr Cash summarised the steps now being taken. BTU Directors had discussed the matter on 20 November. They agreed to take steps to ensure that the new leaflet is seen by all individual donors. Each donor will be questioned before donation and asked to confirm that he is not a representative of a high risk group. In the meantime, work is moving forward, albeit slowly, on the testing of every donation for the virus. One major centre in the west has been invited to do an evaluation of kits. Kits will perhaps be available generally by the end of 1985.

Heat treatment of Factor VIII is on schedule. As an introductory step, existing stocks of Factor VIII and future stocks will be dry heated: this will destroy the AIDS virus but will not deal with hepatitis. A clinical trial is to start within the next few days; all existing stocks will be treated by January, and from the end of the year - or earlier if possible - all the Factor VIII which is used should have been treated.

Steps were being taken to reassure staff at the PFC. It was reassuring that no worker in the USA had been infected with the virus.

GRO-C

HUGH MORISON

Room 173

SHHD

SAH

Ext: GRO-C

22 November 1984

With the
compliments of the

Mr C H Wooller, General Administrator

Common Services Agency
for the Scottish Health Service

Trinity Park House, South Trinity Road, Edinburgh, EH5 3SE
Telephone: 031 552 6255 Ext.