

PS/Mr MacKay

Copy to PS/SHHD
Mr Walker
Dr Scott
Director SIO

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

1. My minute of 11 July 1983 described an information leaflet on AIDS for distribution by the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service. Mr MacKay may wish to note that distribution started on 2 September. SIO issued a notice on the same day, but so far the Scottish Press has shown no interest.
2. Following my last minute, however, you wrote (12 July) that Mr MacKay had enquired whether the surplus capacity at the Protein Fractionation Centre (PFC) could be used to increase UK production of Factor VIII.
3. The Blood Products Laboratory (BPL) at Elstree meets about 50% of the demand for Factor VIII in England and Wales, the remainder being imported. Re-development of the BPL to make England and Wales self-sufficient is scheduled for completion in 1986 at a cost of £21m. The present BPL is, however, capable of processing all the plasma available for the production of Factor VIII. We understand that the Blood Transfusion Service in England and Wales has plans to increase its plasma stock, and if this is likely to exceed concurrent BPL processing capacity we will discuss with DHSS whether the PFC could process the surplus. Such a step would not be possible without some capital investment in additional facilities for storage, filling, packaging etc at PFC, and increased running costs.
4. *A further difficulty*
Recently, however, production at the PFC has been adversely affected by construction work required by the Medicines Inspector and this will continue into 1984. As a result a backlog of plasma for processing has built up, and the introduction of a second shift is under consideration as a temporary measure. In the longer term, it is unlikely that the PFC will be able to accommodate normal plasma processing for Scotland and Northern Ireland within a single shift. The situation at the PFC will obviously be a factor in considering whether plasma from the BPL can be processed.

J G Davies
September 1983

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