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M. Leadle

Mr Robertson

Copies to: Dr McIntyre  
Mr Macpherson ✓  
Mr Murray

GRO-C

17/7/85

AIDS TESTING

copy a Hothead

In your minute of 26 June on the DHSS Chapter of the 1985 PES Report you said that you would be glad to know if we would have to find new money this year or next for testing blood donations. While the situation is still far from clear there is no doubt that we will need to make a parallel bid though quantifying it is somewhat difficult.

Dr Cash, in his letter of 14 March, suggested that the annual cost to the SNBTS would be in the region of £1/2m for the purchase of test kits to which would need to be added some other costs, possibly including staffing costs. Given the rate at which developments in this field are changing this can only be regarded as an estimate of the most provisional kind. Indeed I understand that DHSS are now working on a figure of £2 a test rather than the £1.65 suggested by Dr Cash; this points to a whole year figure of £600,000 for Scotland for purchase of kits. Due allowance for other costs might take us up to £750,000 per annum.

We have been unable to ascertain precisely how the AIDS figures in the DHSS Chapter relate to the items shown in the narrative. We can safely assume that they contain cost elements for importing heat-treated products and accelerating the steps towards self-sufficiency. England lags behind Scotland in self-sufficiency in blood products and we therefore do not need to match any part of the bid for this purpose. It is also likely that the DHSS figures include the recently announced sum of £750,000 to be provided to the PHLS to set up laboratory facilities for confirmatory testing. I understand that in Scotland the confirmatory testing will be carried out by the Universities who presumably will require to be paid. Mr Macpherson may be able to tell what the likely costs of this are to be, but they may be quite small and counted in the £750,000 above.

Do we have any information on this?

As regards 1985/86, £50,000 was held back from our allocation to the CSA as a contingency sum to meet AIDS testing this year. The test is not likely to be introduced for some months yet. On that basis the amount we have held back should go most of the way to meeting the costs in this financial year. On the basis of the above figures, however, this is only one month's costs, and it might be necessary to seek further reserves later in the year - maybe a further £100,000.

I am sorry that this figuring is imprecise. We hope for further guidance from the BTS in the PES returns, expected from the CSA next week. If the DHSS bid is successful, 10/85 would seem to provide us with more than we should require for the purpose.

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22/7

1. Min Todd - to see psc, and file
2. Dr McIntyre - is funding for confirmatory testing required or are our needs met through NDHC?

J G DAVIES  
12 July 1985

Room 115  
Division IVD  
SHHD  
SAH

Ext: GRO-C

Mr. Leadle.

Our funding is not counted in the £750,000.

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It has been our intention to fund via NDHC and bids

are expected for 1986/87. However neither BTS testing is likely to start in Oct 1985 - so we will need some extra funding this year. I am attempting to find out how much

22/7

Min Todd  
Dr McIntyre is doing a further minute on this

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23/7/85