



72

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
HANNIBAL HOUSE Room No. 1025a
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE LONDON SE1 6TE
TELEX 883669 TELEPHONE 01-703 6380 EXT GRO-C
GTN (2916)

Your reference:

Our reference:

12 February 1985

Professor A L Bloom
Chairman
Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation
University of Wales College of Medicine
Department of Haematology
Heath Park
CARDIFF CF4 4XN

Dear Professor Bloom

RE HTLV III TESTING FOR HAEMOPHILIACS

Thank you for your letter of the 16 January. I regret that you have not yet had a formal reply.

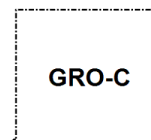
Following the meeting on the 10 December at CBLA, Elstree Dr Abrams discussed with the PHLS Director Dr Whitehead the priority which should be given to the testing of haemophiliac patients and the follow up of those given heat treated concentrates. I understand that Dr Mortimer has already been provided with some extra clerical support and is expecting further additional help. The Department meets representatives of the PHLS regularly and will certainly treat any requests for further assistance sympathetically.

Dr Tedder was invited to make an application to this Department for further support and this has quite recently been approved in principle.

I hope you will accept that the Department are well aware of the importance of AIDS in relation to public health and are taking all practical steps in this respect. As you will know the radioimmunoassay test developed in the UK is now being developed commercially. The Department are arranging that all tests for antibody to HTLV III should be evaluated in order that recommendation can be made of the most suitable to use in the blood transfusion services and also by the NHS.

Yours sincerely

copy: Dr C Rizza
Director
Oxford Haemophilia Centre
Churchill Hospital
HEADINGTON
Oxford OX3 7LJ



Dr Alison Smithies