



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

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*From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

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Nicholas Baker Esq

*Dear Nicholas,*

31 MAY 1983

Thank you for your letter of 9 May, addressed to Kenneth Clarke, about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and the supply of blood products in this country.

I can well appreciate the anxiety, particularly amongst haemophiliacs and their families, which recent press reports on AIDS may have caused and would first of all like to put matters into perspective: the cause of AIDS is as yet unknown and there is no conclusive proof that the disease has been transmitted by American blood products. The Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, London, in collaboration with the Centres for Disease Control in the USA, has established a special surveillance system to monitor the occurrence of AIDS and every opportunity is being taken to learn from the Americans and their experience of this disease. Meanwhile UK Blood Transfusion Directors have already discussed the issues and are considering what action may be taken to avoid wherever possible bleeding donors from high risk groups (eg persons with symptoms and signs suggestive of AIDS; sexually active homosexual or bisexual men with multiple partners; intravenous drug abusers).

I would like to assure you that funds have already been committed to making this country self-sufficient in blood products. Over £2 million has already been spent on improving the production facilities of the Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree, Herts and the Central Blood Laboratories Authority is about to embark on a major redevelopment programme. When this is complete the Authority will have a new Laboratory of a size capable of meeting the demands of England and Wales for blood products.

As you may know, the Haemophilia Society exists to advise and support people suffering from haemophilia and allied blood disorders and I am enclosing a copy of a letter about AIDS which the Society sent recently to all its members which may be of interest to you.

*John*

GRO-C

LORD TREFGARNE

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Send Copies of document  
along with a copy of the  
letter from Mr

GRO-A

Comp = This may be of some  
use in the preparation  
of the case.