



960/1 25

(70)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY
Telephone 01-407 5522 ext. 7442
From the Chief Medical Officer
Sir Donald Acheson KBE DM DSc FRCP FFCM FFOM

PERSONAL

Dr Joe Smith
Director
Public Health Laboratory Service
61 Colindale Avenue
LONDON NW9 5EQ

21 October 1986

Dear Dr Smith

SURVEILLANCE OF THE SPREAD OF HIV INFECTION IN ENGLAND

I would be grateful for an opportunity to discuss the above with you. At present we do not feel that we are getting as much information as is needed to determine the extent to which this infection is spreading.

It seems to me that we need the following:

1. To continue to examine closely the prevalence of ^{positive} anti-body tests among blood donors including the categorization of the persons who are positive in terms of risk factors.
2. More complete ascertainment of persons with positive tests by CDSC and their categorization in terms of risk groups. I understand that this is at present incomplete because for example the notification of positive tests is virtually limited to PHLS Labs. I wonder whether we might discuss how this could be made more complete.
3. Repeated surveys of the prevalence of anti-bodies in persons who attend STD clinics. This should give us information about the rate of spread amongst persons who have put themselves at risk in respect of STDs and will include persons with many partners both heterosexual and homosexual.

I recognise that there are some sensitivities in relation to the work mentioned above and at this point I should be grateful if you could regard this as a personal letter not to be copied elsewhere.

With best wishes.

Yours

Donald Acheson

