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Divisional Head
General Administration
North West Thames RHA
40 Eastbourne Terrace
LONDON W2

HS/4/1

H1/H7/15

21 June 1976

Dear Sir

AHG CONCENTRATE

Thank you for your letter of 6 May concerning the possible short fall in the production of plasma for AHG concentrate in the North West Thames Region if the financial deficiency to which you draw attention is not made up in some way. I am writing in confirmation of my recent telephone conversation with Mr Golightly.

In view of the importance which is attached to attaining the production targets and the need to replace commercial purchases with National Health Service-produced concentrate as quickly as possible the Department has reexamined the possibility of making an additional revenue allocation to your Authority to cover the increased costs of production. I regret to say that this will not be possible. Although central funds were made available for this development, this process was intended essentially as a 'pump-priming' operation to start the AHG concentrate plasma production programme and this has largely been achieved. Thereafter it was expected that Regions would continue the programme from within their normal allocations (which include an element for the programme, revised in the usual way to take account of cost increases).

The loss of 8,000 donations of plasma annually will mean that the amount of NHS-produced concentrate is proportionately reduced. Some health authorities will have to make up the deficiency by additional purchases of commercially-produced concentrate, at considerable cost.

I therefore hope that your Authority will reconsider its decision to reduce plasma production at the Edgware Transfusion Centre, not only because of the direct loss of AHG concentrate which would ensue but also because of the very considerable extra cost to all Authorities if the NHS production programme were to lose momentum and still more concentrate had to be purchased from commercial sources.

Yours sincerely

T E Dutton