



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

PO(PS-HFSS) 2823/25

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Dr C R Rizza

Thank you for your letter of 12 November addressed to Patrick Jenkin about the short-fall in the production of Factor VIII concentrate for the treatment of haemophilia and the possible redevelopment of the Blood Products Laboratory.

As you may have seen, on 26 November Dr Gerard Vaughan, the Minister for Health, announced in Parliament that there was no question of a commercial company taking over the management of the Blood Products Laboratory and I enclose for your information the text of his answer to Gary Waller MP together with a statement issued on the same day following Dr Vaughan's visit to a blood donor session.

I can assure you that we fully appreciate your concern about the level of NHS production of Factor VIII. Earlier this year, we agreed to an upgrading programme for the Blood Products Laboratory at a cost of £1.3 million which should enable production of Factor VIII to be doubled by the end of 1982. This will not of course meet all of the demand for Factor VIII. The data you have provided on projected requirements for Factor VIII by 1985 (which agree with our own estimates) are very useful. The increasing demand for Factor VIII and its implications for the National Blood Transfusion Service is one of the topics to which the New Advisory Committee on the NBTS is giving urgent consideration and I understand that it is the intention that you and your fellow Haemophilia Centre Directors will be consulted on this matter in the near future. We shall very much welcome your assistance with this difficult problem.

I am writing similarly to Professor Bloom.

Yours sincerely

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SIR GEORGE YOUNG

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