

Miss A Burnett
PS to PS(L)
411 Richmond House

From: Mr J Canavan
HC(A)4B
505 Eileen House
Ext **GRO-C**

Date: 10 February 1992

cc: Mr Malone-Lee
Dr Walford
Mr Wilson HC(A)
Mr Scofield HC(A)4
Dr Rejman HC(M)2

NATIONAL BLOOD AUTHORITY

Summary and Recommendation

1. We are seeking Ministers' agreement to the draft of a letter to be issued to organisations who commented on the consultation paper which proposed the establishment of a National Blood Authority (NBA). Ministers are also asked to approve the terms of reference for the Technical Working Group which will be set up to consider the operational aspects of the NBA.

Background

2. Ministers have agreed in principle to the establishment of the NBA. Before proceeding further, however, Secretary of State asked Mr Malone-Lee to confirm the RHA Chairmen's view on timing for the new body. Mr Malone-Lee spoke with Sir Michael Carlisle and in his minute of 4 February has confirmed the Chairmen's support for the NBA and their view that it should not be set up until later in the year. This is in line with the practical timetable for establishing the NBA. A copy of Mr Malone-Lee's minute is attached at Appendix A for ease of reference.

The Way Forward

3. The next step would be for officials to notify those who responded to the consultation document that a Technical Working Group will be set up to consider the operational aspects of the NBA and to invite nominations for the working group from the main NHS interests. A draft letter is attached at Appendix B.
4. The terms of reference of the working group and its suggested composition are at Appendix C. These have previously been seen by Ministers and we would be grateful for confirmation that PS(L) is content with them.

5. The proposed composition of the working group has been expanded to include a business or finance manager from a Regional Transfusion Centre as well as a Regional Transfusion Director. Two members would allow a greater spread of opinion to be represented and the contracting and finance expertise would also be particularly valuable in considering future arrangements between the NBA and RTC.
6. PS(L) and PUS at the Welsh Office had agreed that once the outcome of the NBA consult exercise and the review of the Welsh Blood Transfusion Service were known officials would take forward discussions on how these bodies might relate to each other. Officials will now get this under way. One method may be to invite a Welsh Office official to the Technical Working Group as an observer.

Decision

7. We ask if Ministers are content
 - that officials write in terms of the draft letter at Appendix B
 - with the draft terms of reference at Appendix C part 1.
 - that officials seek nominations for working group membership from the bodies at Appendix C part 2.

J CANAVAN