

RESTRICTED - POLICY

Lord Hunt

From: Charles Lister HSD1

Date: 9 May 2000

cc: Mr Kerr Dir Ops  
Dr Adam HSD  
Mr Hewlett HSD  
Dr McGovern HSD1  
Mr Anderson EOR  
Mr Miller EOR  
Mr Paley FPA-FAS2  
Ms Skinner HSD1

**REVIEW OF UK BLOOD PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING**

**Letter to the Chief Secretary**

1. Secretary of State has said that he is content for you to write to the Chief Secretary proposing an external review of options for the Bio Products Laboratory. As the proposed letter to Andrew Smith sets out a jointly agreed position with Susan Deacon, you may wish to write to her first seeking agreement to the draft. A suggested letter to Susan Deacon is therefore attached for your signature.

**Next Steps/Timetable for the Review**

2. We will begin work immediately on a specification for the external review, in anticipation of the Chief Secretary's agreement to your proposal. Even so, it will be July before the specification can be agreed and formal approaches made to external consultants. We have given a commitment to the Board of the National Blood Authority that they will have an opportunity to comment on the draft specification before it is sent to you, and Ministerial colleagues, for approval. The first opportunity for the NBA Board to consider the specification will be 27 June. Allowing time for tendering, the external review will not therefore get underway until around October, taking us to the end of the calendar year before we obtain the results.

3. Bearing this mind, it is unlikely that the review will reach its final conclusion, with decisions taken on the future of BPL, before the end of this financial year. I have therefore amended the letter to the Chief Secretary (originally drafted in February) to reflect this fact

**Conclusion**

4. Are you content with:
- the timetable outlined in paras 2 & 3 above;
  - the attached draft letter to Susan Deacon.

Charles Lister  
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