

Mr Doran

REDEVELOPMENT OF BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY, ELSTREE

Re Mr France's minute of 7 November, I feel it is important to record the reaction of the Advisory Committee of the National Blood Transfusion Service, which met yesterday, to the news that all was not well with the redevelopment of the BPL, Elstree.

Great concern was expressed by nearly all members of the Committee if there was any possibility of a delay in completion of the facility. The Regional Transfusion Directors, who are members of the Committee, said that demand for UK manufactured Factor VIII and other blood fractions was increasing significantly because of the scare about AIDS associated with imported material. It was also thought very likely that because of some newer developments, such as heat treatment of these various blood products with a view to eliminating the AIDS and hepatitis agents, the cost of imported material from either the United States or Europe will increase and could, in fact, double. Any delay in completion of the new factory will inevitably escalate the final bill and I see little alternative but to press for the factory to be completed as planned.

The suggestion of declining to agree to the £3.5 million for a new quality control facility should be pursued as a matter of urgency. This was not included in the original project and it is possible that the cost of a new quality control laboratory could be greatly reduced. This could be discussed with the CBLA and the onus put on the Authority to justify the project when it already has a quality control facility, albeit of a size for the present output of the factory.

GRO-C

9 November 1984

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c.c. Mr France
Mr Hulme
Mrs Banks
Mr J James
Mr D Harris
Mr Bolton
Mr Bench
Mr O'Leary
Dr Abrams
Dr Smithies
Mr Cashman
Mr A Williams
Mrs Fosh
Mr M Harris o/a
Mr Arthur

1. Who is the Chn?
2. Does he know? Shd. I ring him & keep him?
3. Draft letter for MS(M) to send to Chn
4. Rpt of Leach Group: CWO's comments
5. To To.