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Your reference:

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RGMS)
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RTDs - [WILLIAMS]

30 July 1985

EVALUATION OF SCREENING TEST KITS FOR HTLV III ANTIBODY

In his press release dated 27 June the Minister for Health announced that a test would be introduced to screen all blood given by blood donors for antibodies to the virus which causes AIDS. Arrangements would also be made for Sexually Transmitted Diseases clinics to provide a test for people who fear they may have been exposed to the disease.

The first stage of the evaluation of commercially available test kits has now been completed by a panel of experts from the Public Health Laboratory Service and a summary of the results of that evaluation is attached. The National Blood Transfusion Service is now undertaking its own 2nd stage evaluation. A more detailed account of the PHLS evaluation will be available on request from mid - August. Any enquiries about this, or any other matter related to the test kits, should be addressed to David Kennedy [or Peter Lister [

The Department has funded the PHLS to set up laboratory facilities to confirm the results of any blood donations found positive in the National Blood Transfusion Service, and to test the samples taken in STD clinics. However, recipients of this letter are asked to ensure that copies are passed to all those who might be involved in the supply and use of test kits.

Yours sincerely

M A Harris

①* covering aspects peculiar to the use of the kits in the blood donation screening context.