

National Blood Transfusion Service-Scientific and Technical Committee for the
Central Blood Laboratories

The Future of the Blood Products Laboratory, Elstree.

1 Members will wish to be informed of the recent decisions by Ministers concerning the future of the BPL. These decisions have been taken in the light of a Departmental submission to Ministers which included the Memorandum from the chairman of the Committee (STC(79)6) and the paper by Mr Smart (STC(79)4). In the submission it was clearly stated that the Committee had strongly endorsed the urgent need to build an NHS factory which, in conjunction with the Scottish Protein Fractionation Centre, would be capable of providing the total UK requirement for centrally manufactured blood products.

2 Ministers consider that:

- i) the Blood Products Laboratory should continue to function until it can be replaced, on the basis of a short-term up-grading, accepting that this will fall short of the upgrading recommended by Medicines Division.
- ii) there should be further exploration of the possibilities of rebuilding either within the NHS or in collaboration with industry.

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T E DUTTON
DR DIANA WALFORD
(for Joint Secretaries)