

Mr Hodder

MANAGEMENT OF CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES

As we agreed on 5 August, I have checked three particular points.

The PHLS Act 1975 (which amends section 5 of the NHS Act 1977) says that 'the Secretary of State may provide a microbiological service, which may include the provision of laboratories, for the control of the spread of infectious diseases and carry on such activities as in his opinion can conveniently be carried on in conjunction with that service'. Parliamentary Counsel was instructed to draw this in terms which covered the collection of therapeutic, diagnostic and research agents from human tissues including blood. (You may additionally like to look at the requirement in Schedule 3 of the NHS Act that the PHLS Board shall include minimum numbers of people of specified kinds. There might be a slight inconsistency here with the idea we discussed of a small 'holding company' board.)

Paragraph 12 of the NHS Act (as amended) says that the Board may pay its members, and members of any committee appointed by the Board, such remuneration etc 'as the Secretary of State may with the approval of the Minister for the Civil Service determine'.

The Chairman of the PHLS Board will not be available to meet MS(R) or the Secretary of State before the third week in September, when he will start to have a few days free.

Something which I did not mention to you is MS(R)'s undertaking to consider ASTMS's views on management arrangements (copy of letter attached). We need to bear this in mind.

Separate minutes will follow on other matters we discussed.

6 August 1981

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