

IDF/JCM

22nd August, 1984.

Mr. W. J. Tayler,
Regional General Administrator,
S.W.R.H.A.,
King Square House,
26/27 King Square,
BRISTOL.

Dear Winston,

Thank you for your letter of 15th August last relating to the Supply of Plasma to the Blood Products Laboratory.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I have written to Dr. Reynolds about the problems this Centre is experiencing with the cut in our establishment. On page 3 you will see that I refer to the DHSS letter.

I can only reiterate that I did attempt to introduce SAG-M in 1983 but this was turned down by the Authority on financial grounds. I attempted to introduce SAG-M in 1984 and after an initial negative response I heard from you on 26th June, 1984, that we could collect 60,000 units of blood into SAG-M per annum. However, as we are down on our establishment we now do not have the staff to carry out the additional work that the introduction of SAG-M would incur. The Senior Chief M.L.S.O. who was in charge of the project retired in April 1984, and despite my personal attempt to get the post filled I was informed that no replacement could be sanctioned for the time being. Similarly the P.A. in the Computer Department left in April 1984 and no replacement was allowed in this case either. As we are totally dependant on the computer as far as blood intake and deliveries to hospitals are concerned, the introduction of SAG-M would need a change in the computer programme. We now have no computer staff.

You will see from my letter to Dr. Reynolds that we have gradually been able to increase our plasma output from 1980/81 from 9,000 litres to a projected figure of 13,500 litres in 1984/85. If the Authority could finance SAG-M on an increasing basis for the next two to three years we could reach 18,000 litres by 1986/87. Obviously, this exercise is costly particularly as we would wish to expand our activities in Plymouth.

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I am afraid there is no way that we can expand our plasma output with a diminishing establishment and a reduced budget. We have to respond to demands for blood and to products from the hospitals in the region. If we put all our efforts into producing plasma then other services (such as platelet production) would have to be reduced. If only central funding had been made available in the first place we would not be faced with this particular problem now.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

I. D. Fraser
DIRECTOR