Safety of Medicines Act
Blood Products
16 MAY 1975

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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Your reference:
Our reference:

15th May 1975.

Dear Bill,

Thank you very much for the copy of the proposed FDA rule concerning the tests for hepatitis B antigen. I have seen this before but not had my own copy to study at length and thus am very grateful. Knowing of it I asked George Sykes to look into this during his current visit to the U.S.A. during which he is inspecting some blood collecting depots. It is one thing to have regulations and another to learn of the enthusiasm with which they are carried through.

I entirely agree with you that a separate licence rather than a variation of the existing Institute licence would be by far the best measure if it can be done without too much legal difficulty in view of the curious arrangement under which you function. This would seem to me to make you independent - as you should be - and be suitable for all future contingencies.

I too enjoyed my visit very much indeed and am very grateful to you for the time you spent and the amount of information which I obtained. I feel somewhat happier now that the Medicines Inspectorate can, under proper liaison, do a perfectly satisfactory job of inspecting the two U.K. blood production areas. I have recently heard from John Watt that he too is expecting visits in the fairly near future (and incidentally he confirmed that the pressure for licensing is coming from north of the border).

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

J. A. HOLGATE

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