



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
HANNIBAL HOUSE
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE LONDON SE1 6TE
TELEX 883669 TELEPHONE 01-703 6380 EXT

Your reference:
Our reference:

Mr R Nicholls
Regional Administrator
South Western Regional Health Authority
King Square House
26/27 King Square
BRISTOL BS2 8EF

10 August 1984

Dear *Lu.*

SUPPLY OF PLASMA TO THE BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY

You will recall that this subject was discussed at the meeting of the Regional Administrators with DHSS officials on 5 January 1982, following John Shaw's letter of 18 December 1981 which outlined the plasma procurement targets which would be needed for the increased production capacity proposed for the Blood Products Laboratory.

I am concerned to learn from several Regional Transfusion Directors that they are pessimistic about their chances of attaining the continued growth in plasma procurement so as to reach the targets set for 1988. Regional Health Authorities in some cases have not provided the necessary additional funding, and in others have not been prepared to give a long-term commitment to continued expansion to meet the targets set.

Ministers attach considerable importance to the matter of self-sufficiency in the supply of blood and blood products, and the procurement of the necessary raw material, blood plasma, by Regional Transfusion Centres is a vital element in this process. The construction of the enlarged production unit at the Blood Products Laboratory is well under way, and the considerable savings the NHS will make by not having to buy commercial products will not be realised without adequate supplies of blood plasma.

ACTION

I should be glad if you would arrange for your Regional Health Authority to reconsider the steps it is taking in order to ensure that the plasma procurement target set for your Region will be met. John Shaw's letter originally set the targets as being for 1984-85, but a steady increase until 1987-88 is now in line with the phasing of the BPL redevelopment.

I should be glad if you would let me have your comments by the end of September. I am writing in similar terms to all Regional Administrators.

Kavid regard
Yours sincerely

GRO-C

J A PARKER
Assistant Secretary