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Mr Hart

BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY

- 1 Thank you for your minute of 29 January. What you say fits in well with the ideas of HS2 and Med SM4, and Dr Walford and I had envisaged that we should need to produce material for Dr Wintersgill's working group during the second half of February.
- 2 I and Dr Walford (with whose agreement I am writing) will need to be on the working group. Mr Dutton will deputize for me if the occasion arises. It will of course be up to other Divisions to say whether they wish to be represented, and by whom, but I should regard it as essential for Works Group, Medicines Division and Finance Division to be fully involved at the beginning, and I hope they will agree.
- 3 There may well be matters on which the group will need the advice of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Central Laboratories, and Dr Walford and I will be able to arrange for that in whatever way is most convenient (i.e. by paper, report or the personal attendance of an expert member of the Committee).
- 4 I have discussed with Dr Walford whether Dr Lane, the Director of the BPL, should be invited to be a member of the working group. We think it would be difficult to do without the expert advice of the only major producer of blood products in England, but you (though I am less sure about Dr Lane) may see a difficulty in inviting him to say what might be involved in arranging for the transference of his responsibilities to industry - and possibly for no job or a better job for him. This is something you may care to consider.
- 5 As you suggest, we should work on the assumption that we are concerned with supplies of blood products for England and Wales. It would however be well to consider the current views of SHHD on what part the Protein Fractionation Centre, Edinburgh, might play in meeting NHS needs outside Scotland. We are in touch with them about this.

1 February 1980

GRO-C

J HARLEY
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cc

Mr Wormald	Mr James
Dr Oliver	Mr Brechin
Dr Walford	Dr Wills
Mr Dutton	Dr Wintersgill
Mr J B Brown	Mr John
Mr Connor	Mr Bishop

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)16) 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.
- ii) there should be further exploration of the possibilities of rebuilding either within the NHS or in collaboration with industry.

3 With regard to 2(i), discussions are in progress with Medicines Division with the object of agreeing with them on the necessary and possible steps which will be taken to enable the Laboratory to continue to function until supplies of blood fractions from a new source are available. With regard to 2(ii), it is necessary, in the interest of conserving public resources, to compare the cost and effectiveness of building a new Blood Products Laboratory within the NHS with those arising from a possible collaboration, in one form or another, with Industry. No final decision will be taken until the comparison has been made.

February 1980

T E DUTTON
DR DIANA WALFORD
(Joint Secretaries)

12/3/80
H/1313/1A

Your reference
reference

R D Smart Esq CBE
Director Glaxo Holdings Ltd
Clarges House
6-12 Clarges Street
LONDON W1Y 8DH

4 February 1980

Dear Mr Smart

BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY

Tom Dutton has shown me your letter of 28 January, and I am very grateful for the trouble you have taken in drafting a statement in a form acceptable to non-official members of the STC.

Now that I have seen the draft I no longer see a need to submit it to Ministers. What I propose to do - and I hope it will have the Committee's agreement - is to circulate a revised version of committee paper STC(80)1 substantially incorporating your paragraphs.

I should however like to suggest a slight change in your paragraph (2) since it suggests that Medicines Division has laid down a precise set of requirements, whereas in fact we are discussing with them the steps which it is desirable and at the same time possible to take to up-grade the laboratory.

I am enclosing a revised paper for your consideration, and I am also sending it with a copy of this letter to Professor Mollison. Perhaps you and he would be kind enough to let me or Tom Dutton know if my proposal is acceptable to you. If it is we shall use a similar paper in reporting to other interested groups.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

J HARLEY