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Mr Davies

MANAGEMENT OF REGIONAL TRANSFUSION CENTRES (RTCs)

You will wish to see the attached minute from Dr Smithies in which she expresses some concern about the management arrangements for Regional Transfusion Centres. I think we need to look closely at what is proposed to ensure that the services which are provided on a Regional basis (and in the case of South West Thames for two Regions) and for the collaboration between Regional Transfusion Directors is not undermined.

As I understand it, Regional Transfusion Directors have hitherto been accountable to the Authority, presumably through the Regional General Manager, although they may get some services from the units where they are located. Presumably there is nothing wrong with a Region delegating management of an RTC to a District provided in so doing the Regional and indeed inter-Regional function is not upset and Regional funding preserved. Delegation of management to unit level does to my mind raise some questions about the remoteness of accountability from the Region.

The National Blood Transfusion Service is in fact as its name suggests a national organisation which has close links with the Central Blood Laboratories and I believe consideration is again being given to the overall management problems and the question of its possible future centralisation. I do not think this necessarily need influence Regional management arrangements though obviously too many changes close upon one another are disturbing.

Perhaps when you have identified what is the exact position we should get together with those in the Department responsible for the policy issues for the NBTS to ensure that all is well.

GRO-C

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cc Dr Graham
Dr Harris
Mr M Harris
Mr Williams ✓
Dr Smithies
Mr Hart