

Rec'd 12/14

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Mr P N Hackney
MSC2
09 RSQ

NBTS

My minute of 9 December refers. We discussed on 16 December.

As I mentioned I have discussed with both Mr Cashman and Dr Smithies. We all now agree that this matter should be progressed without continuing the dialogue with Mr Hart on the lines I had proposed.

I therefore attach a revised response to Mr Hart, which suggests some amendment to the terms of refers as suggested by Mr Cashman.

I intend to put this forward by Friday 16 December.

GRO-C

M A HARRIS
HS1
1209 HAN H
X GRO-C

17 December 1985

Copies to: Mr J Cashman
Dr A Smithies
Mr D R Harris
Dr R Moore/~~Mr~~ A Williams

Mr Hart

MANAGEMENT OF NBTS

Thank you for your minute of 9 December.

2. It was certainly not our intention that NHS MS should adjudicate on the future management of the NBTS. The terms of reference (annex to the draft paper) did envisage NHS MS making recommendations. However it was not intended that they drafted these without prior discussion and agreement with HS/MedSEB.

3. However I appreciate the point you were making. An alternative approach is to produce a report containing options and list their relative merits but not recommend any particular way forward. HS/MedSEB would then select the "best buy" and persuade Ministers/MB to that view.

4. The terms of reference have been amended to reflect this change of emphasis. Are you now content that this is put to the NHS MB?

SUGGESTED TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To examine the blood transfusion and related services provided by RTCs and CBLA in order to:

1.1 assess the current and forecast needs of the NHS for such services;

1.2 identify those services in which RTCs can or cannot be expected to be self-sufficient and the way in which RTCs and CBLA interact;

2. To consider whether the existing organisation and financial arrangements appropriately support the delivery of services; and to the extent that they do not, to explore possible alternative ways of organising and financing these services, taking account of

a. the Report on cross charging prepared by Price Waterhouse; and

b. the views put to DHSS by Regional Transfusion Directors;

and to assess and advise on the relative costs and benefits of any feasible alternatives.