

Reference

Mr Green

BUPA HOSPITALS LIMITED

Thank you for sending me a draft of your minute to Private Office about the meeting with BUPA. I did not understand from the discussion that there was such a differentiation between a sudden crisis or a long-term disruption in that under both circumstances BUPA wished to be able to provide their patients a service. Whilst for a short-term crisis this could be done without any accumulation of stocks, a longer term disruption might mean they might wish to set-up a blood bank. I have therefore amended your draft to take account of my impression. (Copy attached).

I spoke to Dr Freda Roberts about the difficulties in the Mersey Region which Mr Stephenson referred to at the meeting. The difficulty here has been over the transfer of responsibility for blood banking facilities to Arrow Park Hospital until another hospital took over this function from Arrow Park. Dr Roberts believes that all is now well as the new haematologist is now in charge of ensuring that blood supplies are delivered to the BUPA hospital. Dr Roberts would be very unhappy to have to regularly supply BUPA hospitals from the Transfusion Centre direct. This is partly because she fears that she would have difficulty with her technical staff. Furthermore, as you know, she along with other Regional Transfusion Directors would not be able to take back for re-distribution any blood returned before it became out-dated. I was unable to determine from Dr Roberts whether or not the introduction of handling charges might make relationships with the private hospitals and the technical staff of the blood banks more relaxed.

CODE 18-78

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I do not think we know the whole story of the difficulties quoted by BUPA in the Wirral. I do not think that we should let this pass without making certain that the private hospitals are receiving blood from the NBTS when they need it.

GRO-C

Dr Alison Smithies
MED SEB
room 1025A Han Hse
21 May 1984

cc Mr J Parker