



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Tony Newton OBE MP
Minister of State
Department of Health and Social Security
Richmond House
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In my letter to you of 18 May about the consumption of Factor VIII, I questioned why there had been no capital expenditure on Blood Products Laboratories from 1975/76 until 1982/83. In doing so, I overlooked your note that capital expenditure for this period was included in the revenue figure. However I should be interested to know why it is in fact not possible to identify the capital element in the expenditure prior to 1982.

There are also several further points which I should like to raise about the figures. It seems strange that there was a 70% increase in expenditure in 1980/81 and yet production in 1980 fell by 20%. Could you explain this and also the reason why the expenditure figure for 1981/82 is only an estimate? In 1980 when the Government was fully aware of the need for self-sufficiency, why, in the face of steadily increasing consumption, was there a significant decrease in NHS production? Britain's reliance on imported Blood Products appears from these figures to have increased at that time. It does seem clear to me from your figures that despite my statement in 1975, the capital expenditure necessary to expand production and so achieve self-sufficiency was not allocated until at least 1983/84.

Finally, I wondered how your Department can explain the fact that from 1983, when it had become fairly well-known that imported Blood Products had been contaminated by HIV and thus the need for self-sufficiency had become more urgent, that NHS production was then reduced for four consecutive years. Perhaps your officials can look into these additional points and let me have some explanation.

DAVID OWEN