



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
HANNIBAL HOUSE
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE LONDON SE1 6TE
TELEPHONE 01-703 6390 ext. **GRO-C**

Your reference

Our reference

4 March 1982

A M Macpherson Esq
Scottish Home and Health Department
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DE

Dear Angus

PFC, LIBERTON

We recently spoke about the possibility of the PFC being asked to process English plasma. I told you that, since the PFC's ability to undertake this work appears to hinge on the conclusion of a shift-working agreement with its staff, I have asked DHSS's Personnel Division, in consultation with SHHD colleagues, to consider what the chances^{are} of reaching such an agreement.

I reported this on 26 February to the Policy Steering Group which is planning the new Blood Products Laboratory, and said I thought it unlikely that any indication of whether an agreement might be possible would emerge before late in April. The Group therefore decided to recommend to its parent Joint Management Committee that it should proceed for the moment on the assumption that the BPL will process all plasma for England and Wales and that PFC will, as agreed, process plasma for Northern Ireland as well as Scotland (though I understand this is still not being done). If, within a reasonable time, it seems likely that the PFC will be able to introduce a full 3-shift system, it may not be too late to take account of the fact. The important thing is not to hold up planning until we know whether the PFC can contribute to the fractionation of English and Welsh plasma.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C: John

Copies to { Mr Godfrey
Dr Walford
please