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Dr John Forrester  
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Dear Dr Forrester

I spoke to you recently about possible difficulties which might arise in processing fresh frozen plasma from Northern Ireland and you promised to research the position. Dr McClelland our Director has now received a letter from Dr Perry - a copy of which I enclose - which has caused us some concern.

A number of problems are likely to arise during the coming year if the proposal to limit plasma processing is implemented.

1. In general, the goal of self-sufficiency in blood products will be jeopardised.
2. Supplies of albumin from alternative (commercial) sources are becoming increasingly scarce making this product very difficult to obtain. For this reason the costs are escalating rapidly.
3. Patient safety could be threatened if blood products produced from local, voluntary donors are replaced by commercial materials produced from paid donors from areas at high risk for hepatitis, AIDS, etc. This particularly applies to haemophiliacs, representing a risk in spite of the introduction of heat-treatment of Factor VIII.

I would greatly value your reassurance that Liberton will be willing and able to process our present planned increase of fresh frozen plasma. (Although arrangements have not yet been finalised it is hoped to increase from our present 10,000 litres to 15,000 litres over a 3 year period). I would mention that to date the joint arrangement has worked very well and we are extremely grateful for the help and co-operation we have received at all times from Liberton.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

G T N LAWSON  
Senior Medical Officer