[and] there would otherwise be supply problems and there is an established safety record for the product. The Biologicals Sub-Committee of the Committee on Safety of Medicines is drawing [has drawn] up requirements for the UK consistent with the CPMP guidelines. The provision for products in the pipeline will probably be of more benefit in practice to the BPL than to commercial suppliers because the commercial companies have shorter deadlines between plasma collection and manufacture. However BPL will have to observe the requirements of the regulatory authorities and will not be able to market product made from HCV untested plasma for an indefinite time.

J CANAVAN

[Products from unscreened plasma released for sale before 1 January 1993 will continue to be able for the duration of the product's shelf or until 31 Dec 1995 whichever is the shorter]