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Mr Alexander

1. We have recast the second and third paragraphs of the new standard draft to MPs incorporating more of the substance of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the letter to Regional Administrators, but we would strongly advise against any reference to the point about paid donor panels. There are advocates in this country of the paid donor system and public debate cannot, we believe, be of any benefit to the NHS. Furthermore, if the Minister of State were to refer publicly to a threat to the NHS, it could be taken as a form of challenge to the firms concerned, and cause controversy. There is perhaps the additional point that to complete the story the Minister of State would probably need to hint at legislation to obviate the threat, since there is at present no legal bar to the establishment of paid donor panels.

2. I hope the Minister of State will feel able to accept our advice on this point.

B. O. B. Giddan

B O B Giddan  
MS2B

13 December 1974

cc Mr Brandes  
Dr Haison  
Dr Waiter  
Mr Jackson

Extract from Minute by Mr Alexander d/17.12.74

"Dr Owen has seen Mr Giddan's minute of 13.12.74 about the standard draft letter to MPs on the treatment of haemophilia. He has said that he will accept this advice"