

Mr Gidden

1. Although she does not say so, it seems likely that Mrs Harris drew the 'statistical' material for her letter to Mr GRO-A from the same source as did Mrs GRO-A for her letter to Mr J Ellis (PO(H) 1066/9), namely the Haemophilia Society's News Bulletin for August.

2. A year ago central 'call-off' contracts were made with two firms which had been granted licences to market imported concentrated human Factor VIII in the UK. Authorities were advised of the arrangements in October 1973 and were told that expenditure on purchases would have to be met within existing allocations. Commercial Factor VIII is very expensive and a single operation may cost £2,000. Because of the high cost and authorities' current financial difficulties the uptake of the material during the first year of the contract has been far below the estimated level at which optimum treatment could be given to patients.

3. Increased NHS production of human Factor VIII depends in the first place upon an increase in the amount of plasma made available by the 14 Regional Transfusion Centres for fractionation at the Blood Products Laboratory. Extra production of plasma requires in varying degrees in different Regional Centres additional facilities in terms of equipment and/or staff and/or accommodation. A rough estimate of the cost of equipment and staff required is approximately £500,000, most of it recurring. Recent reports from Regional Transfusion Directors indicate that RHAs are, not unexpectedly, unable to make the necessary funds available.

4. We are intending to discuss the present impasse <sup>with Regional Offices</sup>. It is not only a problem of finding the money to provide more facilities for the separation of plasma from whole blood. It will also be necessary to persuade clinicians to accept a great deal more blood in the form of concentrated red cells than they do at present; this will require much time and effort.

5. I attach a draft reply.

GRO-C

D U Jackson  
HS2B

15 October 1974

*Copy for information*

- 1. *Jr Wenter*
- 2. *Jr Maycock ✓*