



Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
Protein Fractionation Centre,
Ellen's Glen Road,
Edinburgh,
EH17 7QT

Tel. Nos.: 031-664 2317

Director: **GRO-C**

Telex: 72426

Director:
Dr. R. J. Perry

Our Ref: RJP/LB/H/5/001

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Prof J D Cash
Scientific Medical and & Scientific Director
S.N.B.T.S.
39 Cowgate
EDINBURGH

Dear John,

HIV TRANSMISSION TO HAEMOPHILIACS

I have just read Peter's note to you of 5 November. The scientific aspects aside I share Peter's disappointment at the presentational aspects of Christopher's talk. His comments seem to provide no useful purpose and have only served to undermine our claims of a unique and constructive relationship with our 'customers'.

Perhaps of more concern is the effect of such public statements at a time when HIV, infection of haemophiliacs is very much under continued public scrutiny.

Indeed, a central feature of our own position with regard to the tragedy of HIV is the early introduction of heat treatment and other measures such as batch dedication. The scientific value of these measures cannot and will not be proved but they were introduced as a collective response (including Haemophilia Directors) in 1984. I think the public denial of the value of these actions should be carefully considered lest we undermine our collective security on this issue. I for one would wish to have these actions continue to be recorded as effective measures intended to secure the safety of our products and patients.

Maybe the time has come to decouple ourselves from these arguments (I personally think not) but we should not do so until we have rehearsed the consequences.

I would suggest that we may wish to discuss this topic at the Coag Factor Working Party but I would be grateful for your views before making an impassioned plea to continue this debate.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Dr R J Perry
Director
c.c. D McIntosh, P Foster