



# SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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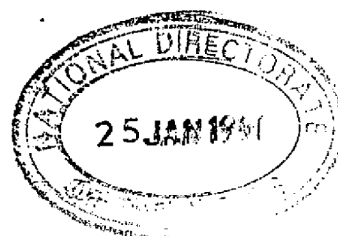
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Please quote our reference number on all correspondence

C/L/B0191144

24 January 1991

Dr H H Gunson  
National Director  
NBTS  
Gateway House  
Piccadilly South  
Manchester M60 7LP



Dear Harold

## ANTI-HCV : DONATION TESTING

Many thanks for your memo of 22nd January.

I have liaised with SNBTS RTDs and we are unanimous in advising, with the greatest respect but in the strongest possible terms, that anti-HCV donation testing should not be commenced in the UK BTS until after the Gulf conflict is over or at least until such time as we are confident our blood collection and microbiology testing teams can cope with what will be quite substantial changes and increased workloads.

Just at the moment there are a lot of exhausted staff in our RTCs and I would judge that when the troops go in, our current frenetic activity will be sustained.

We would be most grateful if you would see Ministers are appropriately advised. We would wish you to emphasise that we do not intend to be obstructive in any way but believe this increased load (HCV donation tests) in the present circumstances could lead to GMP failures in existing overstretched programmes.

We/

HHG 4/115

**PLEASE GIVE BLOOD**

2.

We remain firmly committed to starting on the same day as our NBTS colleagues and if pressed by Ministers I would suggest, in the circumstances, a May/June date should be considered. However, I would much prefer to wait another month and then respond to your letter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely

**GRO-C**

John D Cash  
National Medical & Scientific Director

cc Dr K Calman, Chief Medical Officer (+ letter from HG)  
TDs (+ letter from HG)  
DMcI (+ letter from HG)  
JF (+ letter from HG)

(16/1) (16/3) (16/10) (16/12)

HHG 4/116

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