

MEDICAL OFFICERS

AIDS

It has been agreed by Transfusion Directors and the DHSS that the enclosed AIDS leaflet should be made available on donor sessions, and I will arrange for these to be sent out in the next few days.

Obviously this is a very sensitive topic and we will therefore have to play this in a very low key. We wish to exclude donors who might be more likely to transmit AIDS but wish to avoid consternation to every homosexual donor. I would ask therefore, that you deal with any comments from donors after they have read this pamphlet, as tactfully and confidentially as possible. We certainly would not wish to exclude all homosexuals from donating blood, but obviously those who are promiscuous in this matter, should not donate.

The Ministry is monitoring the effect this pamphlet will have on donors very carefully and I would therefore appreciate any comments you may have regarding its acceptability to donors, and their response.

I will be arranging a Medical Officers' meeting in the next month or so when we can collect together your experiences regarding the issue of this leaflet.

I re-iterate, this is a very delicate issue. Please therefore, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any problems, or refer difficult cases to us.

DR. L.A.DERRICK TOVEY
Director

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NBTS, LEEDS
1.9.83