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Our ref: LMW/cmh

19th December 1994

Dr. Angela Robinson,  
Medical Director,  
National Blood Authority,  
Oak House,  
Reeds Crescent,  
Watford. WD1 1QH

Dear Angela,

### PRISM EVALUATION

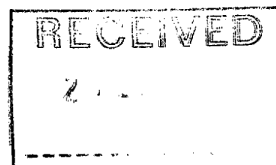
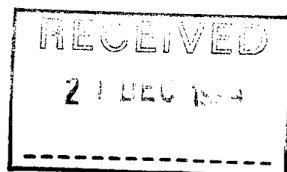
The meeting in Birmingham last week raised a number of issues relating to the handling of donors and donations likely to give repeatably reactive results during the Prism evaluation. We have carried out a number of evaluations of new kits over the years and it has been our practice to ignore the results when deciding on the fate of either donations or donors. This is on the basis that at the time of the evaluation such kits are not validated. However, in discussion with colleagues from Glasgow, it would appear that this is not the policy in the SNBTS and that their evaluation of Prism has led to some major difficulties in the large number of packs to be quarantined and/or discarded pending confirmatory testing. This was particularly highlighted because of hepatitis B anti-core testing being part of their evaluation. It would indeed seem that, particularly for hepatitis B surface antigen, Prism offers advantages in sensitivity, and we should therefore carefully consider how we are going to handle donations and donors who give repeatably reactive results during the validation.

I had the opportunity to discuss this with John Barbara and Alan Slopecki at the meeting and we agreed that the way forward was for Alan to set up a meeting, some time in January, with all interested parties, including yourself, Abbott, representation from Glasgow, Alan and myself, to discuss this issue round the table. As we discussed by telephone, it is also appropriate that John Barbara should attend and I personally would greatly welcome this. The Cambridge Group would be quite happy to travel to either Colindale or Watford for the meeting.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C



Dr. Lorna Williamson  
Consultant/University Lecturer in Transfusion Medicine