

23 May 1995

Dr Tim Wallington
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Dear Tim

Re: The Expense of HCV Look-back

As I mentioned yesterday, the number of potentially infected components issued by this centre is now known to be 394. These came from 65 donors, although there are another 35 who donated as new donors after September 1991 who were found HCV positive but from whom no products were issued.

We know the recipient hospital for 269 of these donations, and they are currently being notified of these and of the dates issued. Of the remaining 125, we know the date of preparation and the nature of the products prepared, but not the recipient hospitals as these parts of our records were irreparably damaged while being stored by the RHA. The period covered is 4 years from mid 1984 to mid 1988.

As you also know, I have visited the hospital haematologists involved; and have gained the strong impression that they will expect most of the counselling to be conducted by Wessex NBA medical consultants, although one haematologist has expressed a willingness to undertake some of this himself. Assuming that only about half of the recipients of the products will be surviving, we can expect about 135 'customers' who will require counselling in their own hospitals. This will obviously be a major commitment for us. The remaining 125 recipients may have to be traced later, but I feel that we should tackle what we know first and see how that goes. We (the BTS) may have to offer some assistance to the hospitals in order to trace these 125 people.

We can anticipate a lot of enquiries from the hospitals when they receive our first batch of notifications and Andrew and I feel that we may need some extra help in the Centre from early June. As our pool of non-consultant doctors is entirely engaged on donation collection activities, we would have to supplement them if it became necessary to call on them for help. We could only do this by engaging some more temporary session doctors, not necessarily very easy either to predict or to arrange.

My feeling is that about two fifths of a whole time medical cover will be required from June, possibly until the end of the calendar year. Although in the short term we may well be able to start, I feel that we should bid for up to £10,000 of doctor time. This would not necessarily be in direct counselling, but could be for extra support to the centre's non-consultants who in turn are supporting the consultants while they are doing the counselling.

There is also the question of extra clerical time. On account of her knowledgr of the system, we have already employed one of our recently retired clerical officers. She has now worked the equivalent of four weeks' whole time - about £700 worth. We are likely to continue requiring her services - perhaps the equivalent of one day a week for the rest ofthe year, or about another £1400 worth

I hope this helps

Kindest Regards

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Frank Boulton
Director