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PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

SERVICE BOARD

MINUTES 1984

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PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE BOARD

Distribution
Board & HQ Office

PHLSB 84/17

Minutes of the Board : 26 January 1984

Meeting held at PHLS Headquarters, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ
from 12.00 to 16.00 hours

Present

Members

C.E. Gordon Smith, CB, MD, DSc, FRCP, FRCPath. (Chairman)

A.D. Bostock, MB, FFCM, DPH.

D.F.R. Crofton, B.Comm, FCA, ACIS.

A.E. Eames, DMA, FEHA, MRSH.

A.P. Haines, MB, MRCP, MRCGP.

E.L. Harris, CB, MB, FRCPE, FRCP, FFCM.

P. Higham, FCA.

R.G. Hoare, CBE, FPS.

Professor Rosalinde Hurley, MD, FRCPath, LLB.

W.C.D. Lovett, OBE, MD, FFCM, DPH, DTM&H.

Professor F.W. O'Grady, CBE, TD, MSc, MD, FRCP, FRCPath.

M. Sackwood, MB, BS., FFCM, DPH, DRCOG.

C.C. Stevens, OBE, LLB, FPS.

Professor A.J. Zuckerman, MD, DSc, FRCP, FRCPath, DipBact., DRCOG.

Staff Assessors

B. Gee, BA, FIMLS.

A.G. Taylor, PhD.

G.C. Turner, MD, FRCPath.

Officers

J.E.M. Whitehead, MA, MB, FRCPath, DipBact. (Director of the Service)

Miss Joan R. Davies, MD, DipBact. (Deputy Director of the Service)

P.D. Meers, MD, FRCPath, DipBact. (Deputy Director of the Service)

R.B. Paget, MA, MBA, FIPM, FBIM. (Secretary to the Board)

J.M. Harker, AHA. (Deputy Secretary to the Board)

K.M. Saunders, IPFA, MBIM. (Finance Officer)

D.S. Broadfield, AHA. (Personnel Officer)

1. Introductory Matters

(i) Apologies for Absence

Professor M.H. Richmond
Dr. A.J. Rowland
Mr. J.R. Hepple

(ii) New Board Members

The Chairman welcomed Dr. A.P. Haines and Dr. M. Sackwood to their first meeting of the Board. He also extended a welcome to Mr. Brian Gee MLSO Staff Assessor to the Board.

(iii) Honours

The Chairman congratulated Professor F.W. O'Grady on being appointed a CBE in the New Year Honours. He also wished, on behalf of the Board, to convey congratulations to Dr. N.S. Galbraith on the award of the Stewart Prize of the British Medical Association.

2. Minutes

CONFIRMED: Minutes (PHLSB 83/80) of the meeting held on 27 October 1983.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(i) Honorary Appointments (Minute 83/96)

It was reported that the following had accepted the Board's offer of honorary status in the Service:

(a) Dr. D.C. Warhurst, honorary Microbiologist in association with the PHLS Malaria Reference Laboratory, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

(b) Dr. J.K. Wardle, honorary Consultant Medical Microbiologist in association with PHLS Laboratory, Wolverhampton.

(c) Dr. Sheena Reilly, honorary Consultant Medical Microbiologist in association with PHLS Laboratory, Plymouth.

4. Common Seal

It was reported that the following document had been sealed on behalf of the Board:

A power of attorney appointing Yoshiharu Kawase, Takachika Yoshino and Takehiko Saito, registered patent attorneys of Tokyo, Japan, to act on behalf of the Public Health Laboratory Service Board to

make application for a patent for an invention entitled "New fibrinolytic enzymes", methods for their production and pharmaceutical compositions containing them", to the Japanese Patent Office.

5. Finance Committee

Mr. Crofton reported on the meeting of the Finance Committee held earlier in the day. For the current year 1983-84 a tight control had been kept over revenue expenditure and the projected overspend on pay had been eliminated. The overspend in non-pay of £200,000 on laboratory consumables had been anticipated and would be met by monies elsewhere. The reasons for this overspend were considered by the Finance Committee and were due to a higher work load in the laboratories, developing technology and new equipment.

In 1984-85 the Board's Cash Limit has been cut by 3.2 per cent which meant that the PHLS would have to reduce its expenditure by £1 million. It would, however, gain increased funding for New Colindale and Rubella work. The Cash allocations will include an inflation allowance of 3 per cent for pay awards and 5 per cent for non-pay which will almost certainly be insufficient. The overall picture for 1984-85 meant that the PHLS would have to find £1.5 million (£1 million for the reduction in Cash Limits and £0.5 million to meet extra costs).

Previous deficits on revenue have been funded out of the non-recurrent budget; equipment, maintenance and capital expenditure which amount to approximately £1 million. The deficits in 1985/86 are estimated as £1.5 million and in 1986/87 as £2.2 million.

The Chairman said that the non-recurrent budget had been used to fund recurrent expenditure during the past year but that this could not continue. The savings would have to be found from recurrent expenditure particularly the pay budget. The £1.5 million was a minimum rather than a maximum.

The Chairman informed members that Mr. Stevens could no longer attend meetings of the Finance Committee because of another commitment. He proposed that Dr. Sackwood and Mr. Higham be appointed to the Committee.

AGREED: the appointment of Dr. Sackwood and Mr. Higham to the Finance Committee.

6. Capital Projects Committee

Dr. Harris reported on the meeting held on 24 January 1984. Under authority given by the Board, it was decided not to accept a phased handover of New Colindale. The main advantage was that the guarantee on the whole building would now run from the final hand-over date.

At the last Board Meeting concern had been expressed about the attitude of the main Contractors towards reduction in the workforce and reduced levels of productivity, mainly in the electrical trades. It was felt that, if matters did not improve, the Chairman of the Board should meet the Chairman of Mowlem/Andrews Weatherfoil. On 10 January 1984 the Chairman and members of the Capital Projects Committee held a meeting with the Design Team, who gave a detailed presentation of the state of the Contract. The Design Team were optimistic and convinced members that there was no need, at this stage, to go direct to the contractor. However the Project Manager's monthly reports will be closely monitored by the Board's officers and the Department and if there is a deterioration members will ask to see the Chairman of Mowlem/Andrews Weatherfoil.

At the last meeting anxiety was expressed about progress of the Production Centre at Porton. The latest position was that although there was a 3 to 4 week delay the number of variations had been reduced. On the Fermentation Pilot Plant, the Department had given permission to proceed to budget cost stage. Martin Barnes had put forward a proposal to appoint a separate firm of Quantity Surveyors. In spite of counter arguments from the Design Team, (Building Design Partnership), the Committee had accepted this recommendation.

The Chairman suggested that Professor Glynn be invited to present to the Board at its next meeting his plans for the utilisation and administration of the New Colindale.

AGREED: to invite Professor Glynn to give a presentation on the proposed utilisation of New Colindale.

NOTED: that Dr. Sackwood had had to decline membership of the Capital Projects Committee.

7. Building Programme

RECEIVED: a progress report on the current building programme (PHLSB 84/3).

The Deputy Secretary reported that the Finance Committee were concerned at the small amount (£98,000) available in 1984/85 for minor capital schemes and large maintenance items. It felt that no unavoidable new commitments should be entered into meantime. It agreed that the CAMR primary services must go ahead as planned, as well as the Gonococcal Reference Unit at Bristol because that was linked to the closure of the VD Reference laboratory. Although we were not yet contractually committed to the new joint laboratory at Dorchester, it was an integral part of a scheme for a DGH costing £10.5 million and it would be difficult to withdraw. It would however be possible to delay payments or pay smaller amounts over a longer period. It was hoped that the Department would permit the income from the sale of the Maidstone laboratory to the DHA to top up the Board's Capital programme funds.

8. Steering Committee on Income Generating Activities (SCIGA)

RECEIVED: a memorandum (PHLSB 84/4) giving the report to the Board on the meeting of SCIGA held on 6 January 1984.

The Board Secretary reported that SCIGA had been informed about the negotiations with Mr. Haydon-Baillie concerning the development of the commercial potential at CAMR. These were still underway and a letter from the Chairman to Mr. Haydon-Baillie was circulated to Board Members. That letter gave an assurance that before any proposals of the Expenditure Review Group relating to CAMR were put in effect, consultations would take place with Mr. Haydon-Baillie.

It was reported that SCIGA had received a draft business plan for CAMR and criteria for private sector investment. Both documents would now be combined, edited and finally considered at the next meeting of SCIGA. Meanwhile draft 'Heads of Agreement' had been prepared by Mr. Crofton which would form the basis for any agreement with a partner from the private sector.

SCIGA had also considered the drawing up of guidelines for PHLS staff on commercial exploitation and confidentiality. It was also concerned about the signing of commercial agreements by staff and requested an alteration to Standing Orders to involve Board Members.

The Chairman proposed the setting up of a small executive group to make decisions on behalf of the Board where these were required between Board meetings and related to commercial aspects of CAMR. The Group would consist of the Chairman, Mr. Stevens Professor Richmond, Mr. Crofton and Mr. Higham.

AGREED: (i) to the setting up of an Executive Group to deal with matters relating to the commercial aspects of the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research (CAMR) between Board meetings.

(ii) to give authority to the Executive Group to take decisions on behalf of the Board, provided the matter was reported to the next Board meeting.

9. Agreements

It was reported that the following documents had been signed on behalf of the Board:

An Agreement between the Public Health Laboratory Service Board acting through its Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research and the L.H. Engineering Company Limited whereby the PHLS will develop production methods at CAMR and will supply processed virus suspensions suitable for human use as a Herpes Vaccine.

An Agreement between the Public Health Laboratory Service Board acting through the Microbial Technology Laboratory, CAMR and Waters Associates (Instruments) Limited whereby the PHLS will perform further research in the development of commercial products for analytical and preparative High Performance Liquid Affinity Chromatography Systems.

An Agreement between the Public Health Laboratory Service Board acting through the PHLS Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research and Fisons PLC whereas the PHLS will carry out a feasibility study on the microbial conversion of a part of the carbohydrate waste stream generated by production at Fisons in order to enhance its value by production of a limited concentration of riboflavine.

An Agreement between the Public Health Laboratory Service Board and Biogen N.V. in respect of an agreement that the PHLS will continue to act as a manufacturing facility in the UK for Biogen and also the parties wish to exchange biological strains for evaluation purposes and for the development of growth conditions of such strains and the purification of proteins produced from such strains.

An Agreement for one year between the Public Health Laboratory Service Board and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Harwell in respect of the PHLS acting as consultants to provide a critical evaluation of composite chromatographic materials for fractionation of crude protein mixtures.

An Agreement between the Public Health Laboratory Service Board and the Chemical Defence Establishment for a six month's investigation to develop a sensitive assay for antibodies to anthrax and to relate antibody levels in blood to levels of protection against anthrax infection, to be carried out in the Vaccine Research and Production Laboratory, CAMR under the direction of Dr. P. Turnbull and Professor J. Melling.

10. Alteration to Standing Orders

RECEIVED: a memorandum (PHLSB 84/5) setting out the proposed alteration to Standing Order No. 22 "Signature of Documents".

APPROVED: the alteration to Standing Order No. 22 as set out in PHLSB 84/5.

11. Staffing Matters

The Secretary to the Board reported that Mr. O'Shea's appeal to a panel of Board Members against his dismissal at CPHL had not been allowed. To date there had been no further application to appeal.

It was also reported that a panel of Board Members had rejected a grading appeal from three chief MLSOs at PHLS Laboratory, Sheffield. ASTMS on behalf of the MLSOs had now taken the matter to a Regional Whitley Appeal.

12. Honorary Appointments

AGREED: that, with the support of the Director of the Service and the Directors of the Laboratories concerned, honorary status in the Service should be offered to the following whose curricula vitae were circulated:

- (i) Dr. Melanie Williams: Honorary Consultant Medical Microbiologist in association with PHLS Laboratory, Guildford (PHLSB 84/6);
- (ii) Dr. J.Q. Nash: Honorary Consultant Medical Microbiologist in association with PHLS Laboratory, Ashford, Kent (PHLSB 84/7).

13. Terms and Conditions of Service: Pay Awards.

RECEIVED: a memorandum detailing the revision of the incremental salary scale applicable to Basic Grade Microbiologists and an increase in London Weighting (PHLSB 84/8).

NOTED: the information as shown in the above report.

14. Division of Epidemiology

RECEIVED: a memorandum (PHLSB 84/9) proposing the appointment of Dr. N.S. Galbraith as Director Designate of the Division of Epidemiology.

The Director of the Service explained that this was the logical outcome of the Board's previous decision to form a unified 'Division of Epidemiology'. The Board received an assurance that vaccine surveillance would receive the same degree of priority under the new arrangements as under the old.

Dr. Harris enquired about what would happen to the name 'Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre' (CDSC). The Director of the Service said that the Centre would continue within the Division of Epidemiology.

AGREED: the appointment of Dr. N.S. Galbraith as
Director Designate of the Division of Epidemiology.

15. PHLS Laboratory, Swansea

The Director of the Service explained that the proposal to extend the appointment of Dr. Kwantes beyond his retirement age arose as a result of delay in the start of the new scheme at the Singleton Hospital, Swansea. The start on site was now expected to be April 1984 and completion in April 1986. It was intended that the present Consultant Medical Microbiologist at Singleton would be Director of the new joint laboratory when completed.

APPROVED: the extension of the appointment of
Dr. W. Kwantes as Director of PHLS Laboratory, Swansea after
reaching the age of 65 on 10 April 1984 for one year in the first
instance.

16. PHLS Laboratory, Chelmsford

RECEIVED: a memorandum (PHLSB 84/10) on the
proposed appointment of Dr. G.I. Barrow as Acting Director of
PHLS Laboratory, Chelmsford.

APPROVED: the appointment of Dr. G.I. Barrow as
Acting Director of PHLS Laboratory, Chelmsford from 1 January 1984.

17. Staff Appointments

CONFIRMED: on the recommendation of the Advisory
Appointments Committees, the appointment of the following whose
curricula vitae were circulated:

- (i) Consultant Medical Microbiologist Director PHLS Laboratory
Leeds: Dr. R.N. Peel with effect from 13 February 1984,
at a salary of £24,260 maximum of the scale to replace
Dr. G.L. Gibson (PHLSB 84/11);
- (ii) Consultant Medical Microbiologist, PHLS Laboratory,
Cambridge: Dr. Anita M. Rampling with effect from a
date to be arranged, at a salary of £18,900 on the scale
rising to £24,260 per annum. The appointment was to the
vacancy created by Dr. J. Nagington's retirement
(PHLSB 84/12);
- (iii) Principal Grade Microbiologist, Vaccine Research and
Production Laboratory, PHLS Centre for Applied Microbiology
and Research: Dr. A. Doyle with effect from 1 February
1984, at a salary of £11,413 on the scale rising to
£16,010 per annum funded by the DTI (PHLSB 84/13).

18. Advisory Appointments Committees

RECEIVED: a memorandum (PHLSB 84/14) comprising lists of members of advisory Appointments Committees which considered applications for the following posts:

- (i) Consultant Medical Microbiologist Director, PHLS Laboratory, Leeds;
- (ii) Consultant Medical Microbiologist, PHLS Laboratory, Ashford;
- (iii) Principal Grade Microbiologist, Vaccine Research and Production Laboratory, PHLS Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research.

19. Staff Appointments: Report of Action Taken

RECEIVED: report (PHLSB 84/15) on action taken under the discretion of the Director of the Service.

APPROVED: the action as shown in the above report.

20. Leave of Absence: Congresses and Visits Abroad

RECEIVED: a memorandum (PHLSB 84/16) giving particulars of overseas visits approved since the last meeting.

APPROVED: the action as shown in the memorandum.

21. Grants

NOTED: that the following grants have been approved:

Medical Research Council

£13,750 for a period of three years for a project on the development of site directed affinity labels and the probing of the catalytic domains of proteins, to be undertaken in the Microbial Technology Laboratory, CAMR under the direction of Dr. A. Atkinson.

Department of Industry

£151,000 for a period of three years to 31 March 1985 for a project on New Control Devices for Bioreactors (Biosensors) in association with the Laboratory of the Government Chemist, to be undertaken in the Microbial Technology Laboratory, CAMR under the direction of Dr. A. Atkinson.

Cancer Research Campaign

£12,502 for a period of 36 months commencing 1 October 1983 for a project on antitumour enzymes: targeting and combination therapy to be undertaken in the Microbial Technology Laboratory, CAMR under the direction of Dr. R.F. Sherwood.

Wessex Regional Health Authority

£9,667 for a period of two years for a project to study the bacteriological flora associated with dental caries and the initial chemical changes occurring at the carious site to be carried out in the Pathogenic Microbes Research Laboratory, CAMR under the direction of Dr. P.D. Marsh.

Agricultural Research Council

£14,613 for the period of one year with effect from 1 November 1983 for a project entitled 'The isolation and identification of viruses from sewage sludge prior to disposal on farmland with a subsequent analysis of their persistence', to be undertaken at the PHLS Laboratory, Reading under the direction of Mrs. Jane Sellwood.

Lederle Laboratories

£10,000 for a study of the comparison of piperacillin with a no-treatment control, as prophylaxis during transurethral prostatectomy to be undertaken at the PHLS Laboratory, Dulwich under the direction of Dr. Anne H.C. Uttley.

21. Expenditure Review Group

RECEIVED: a memorandum (PHLSB 84/2) comprising the Report of the Expenditure Review Group (ERG).

Mr. Stevens reported on the proposals of the Expenditure Review Group. He said that whatever decisions the Board took they would be unpopular with those concerned, and could not be achieved immediately. ERG had seen the Directors of the laboratories affected and had received the submissions of certain staff interests.

Since the preparation of the paper there had been fresh developments concerning the transfer of elements from CAMR to other parts of the Service. They awaited a decision on the introduction of private capital and ministerial approval. It was important to achieve even wider consultation so as to carry the Service with the Board.

Before dealing with the proposals in detail the Chairman expressed his appreciation for all the hard work that had been done by the Members of ERG and Board Officers.

Dr. A.G. Taylor said that proposals were intended to apply to all categories of staff but 20 out of 23 affected were non-medical staff. Few medical staff were affected. Mr. Stevens replied that

when the review of the peripheral services had been undertaken, more medical staff may be affected. The Chairman also referred to paragraph 16 of the Report which set out proposals on the future of medical staff.

In answer to a question from Dr. Taylor, Mr. Stevens said that the Directors were consulted only about their own laboratories.

Proposals Relating to Headquarters

Dr. Bostock, Chairman of the Board's Computer Services Working Party, was concerned about the proposal relating to the management of Computer Services, since it was too early for the working party to have made its recommendations. He would like the Board to have an opportunity finally to agree the ERG proposal when the report of the Computer Services Working Party had been received. Professor O'Grady said that the working party should bear in mind that the PHLS needed a period of consolidation and more effective management in Computer Services. The Chairman said that the Board needed a report from the Working Party on PHLS Computer Services' needs and the staff required and he requested this by the next meeting.

Dr. Taylor, supported by Mr. Gee, said that the proposal to delete the post of the Assistant Director of the Service would create the wrong impression in the rest of the Service. The PHLS, an organisation employing some 200 scientists and 1,000 MLSOs needed scientific input in the Head Office managerial structure through the holder of the post. The loss of the post would be detrimental to the relations between CPHL/CAMR and HQ. In July 1983 the Board had approved the regrading of the post to Top Grade Microbiologist with greater responsibility, thus affirming its importance.

Professor Zuckerman said that the distinction between medical and scientific staff was irrelevant, since the PHLS was concerned with medical science. The Chairman said that the structure of Headquarters would have to be looked at later. Meantime he asked whether the Service would perform satisfactorily if the post of Assistant Director was deleted. Members agreed that it would.

AGREED: to delete the post of Assistant Director of the Service. To freeze the post of Computer Services Manager until the Computer Services Working Party had reported.

Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre and Epidemiological Research Laboratory

Members were sceptical about the magnitude of the savings attributed to the merger of CDSC and ERL. Dr. Harris felt that there was an abnormally large number of part-timers on the staff, and with the amalgamation of the two laboratories there could be an opportunity to dispense with some posts. It was pointed out there was a current saving arising from not filling the post of Director of ERL.

AGREED: the Director Designate of the proposed Division of Epidemiology would be asked to ensure that the level of savings were achieved.

Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research

In considering the proposals relating to the Environmental Microbiology and Safety Reference Laboratory (EMSRL). Dr. Turner suggested that legionella studies should be located at CPHL. The Director of the Service replied that the present proposal was that one MLSO post should transfer to Newcastle, but it might be necessary to review the matter in the light of the PES submission to the Department.

The Chairman said that only the diagnostic aspects of the work of the Special Pathogens Research Laboratory (SPRL) were to be transferred. Colindale ought to be capable of doing the diagnostic work. However he personally would regret the disappearance of the SPRL as a national resource. He had therefore asked that enquiries be made of WHO, EC and MRC. On behalf of the Wellcome Trust the Chairman said that the Trust might be prepared to put some money into the SPRL if a suitable basis and a research programme could be submitted to it. He went on to say that there must be consultations with Ministers before any final decision. Meanwhile the Board should accept this proposal in principle but seek outside funds.

Professor Zuckerman said that all 44 suspected cases of viral haemorrhagic fevers were admitted to hospitals in London although only two had lassa fever. The PHLS must do the diagnosis and try to continue with the research, otherwise there would be few left who could handle this type of work. It was important to seek funding and facilities for training. WHO should pay for the work we do on their behalf.

AGREED: the proposals relating to EMSRL.

ACCEPTED: proposals relating to SPRL in principle but requested the officers to seek outside funds for the continuation of the research capability in Special Pathogens at Porton.

REQUESTED: the Director of CAMR to examine overhead costs in order to achieve the targeted savings.

Value for Money (VFM) Reviews

The Chairman proposed setting up two bodies to review the cost of scientific activities of laboratories at CAMR and CPHL in relation to their benefit to the Board's objectives. The VFM review team for CAMR would consist of Professor Richmond as Chairman, with Mr. Crofton, Mr. Higham, and two outside members,

one to represent commercial 'know-how' and the other a microbiologist - Professor H. Smith. Dr. Sutton would be scientific Secretary. The VFM review team for CPHL would consist of Professor O'Grady as Chairman, Professor Zuckerman, Professor Hurley and Mr. Saunders. Professor Glynn would be scientific Secretary and it would be empowered to recruit outsiders. Appropriate Headquarter's staff would be ex-officio members of both review teams.

AGREED: the proposal to establish the VFM Review teams and requested that their work should be completed in 1984/85.

Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL)

The Board agreed the proposals to transfer work in vibrio reference and research and in campylobacter and yersinia reference work to the Division of Enteric Pathogens set out in paragraph 11.1.

The Board agreed in principle to transfer to the Division of Hospital Infection the safety reference work at CAMR. The Board also agreed that klebsiella and diphtheria reference work should be transferred, in due course, to CPHL from peripheral laboratories without increase to staff or funding.

Peripheral Reference Services

The Board agreed to the proposals set out in paragraph 12 of the paper (relating to reductions in the budget of reference units located at Regional and Area Laboratories).

Peripheral Laboratories

The Chairman said that since the PHLs was being reviewed by the DHSS, the Board should closely examine the extent to which it needed peripheral laboratories to fulfill its statutory duties. He suggested three scenarios for examination from a value for money standpoint:

- No peripheral laboratories
- The Regional laboratories only to continue in being
- Withdrawal from, say 10 laboratories, and which ones would they be.

The Chairman requested the savings figures for each of these scenarios so that they would be ready at the time of the DHSS Review report.

Referring to the proposed savings from the ten peripheral laboratories reviewed so far, Dr. Davies said that the Directors were now awaiting the Board's decisions. Dr. Harris said that the fifty-two PHLs Laboratories should simply be given a reduced budget. The Chairman suggested that the rest of the savings required should now be distributed around the rest of the Service and include pay and non-pay.

The Chairman was also concerned that sufficient had not been done to reduce the provision of electron microscopes and animal houses since the matter was discussed by the Board last July. The Director of the Service said that he would be able to report the closure of a number of animal houses at the next meeting. No electron microscopes had been replaced.

AGREED: (i) to examine the savings to the PHLS which would accrue from the three scenarios.

(ii) the initial work which had identified savings in ten peripheral laboratories should be extended to include the remainder.

(iii) that the Director of the Service report to a future meeting of the Board the extent of closures of animal houses.

Medical Staff

After discussion the Board approved the proposal in paragraph 16 requesting the Director of the Service to make proposals for reductions in medical staffing levels in the Service, at a future meeting.

Summary

The Chairman summed up the discussion on the ERG proposals by saying that they should be looked at in two parts; (a) HQ, Colindale and the peripheral laboratories and (b) CAMR, Porton Down. There would have to be a delay in the implementation of the proposals affecting Porton but those affecting HQ, Colindale and the peripheral laboratories should proceed.

AGREED: (i) to accept the ERG proposals in principle but that those affecting CAMR, Porton would be implemented only after consideration by Ministers.

(ii) the 'Value for Money' reviews recommended for CPHL and CAMR should proceed as soon as possible, to produce further savings.

(iii) a further Report should be presented to the Board in April.

23. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

6 March 1984
RBP/pcd

