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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
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Your reference  
Our reference

J D Hague Esq  
Regional General Manager  
Northern Regional Health Authority  
Benfield Road  
Walker Gate  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE6 4PY

Z PD

16 September 1985

Dear Mr Hague



RAM has  
not seen.

#### PLASMA PROCUREMENT TARGETS

You will be aware of the added importance that the AIDS problem has given to the need for this country to become self sufficient in blood products. To this end a considerable capital investment has been made to redevelop the Blood Products Laboratory (BPL) at Elstree.

The goal of self sufficiency will not be reached if BPL are not provided with sufficient plasma to process. Thus there is considerable public and Parliamentary interest in this matter. A recent PQ has led to a request that those Regions not planning to meet their plasma targets should be made public. We need to make this information available early in October.

On the basis of the information currently available to us it seems that your Region does not have firm plans to reach the target set in December 1981. I would therefore be grateful if you would confirm whether or not this is the case and, if so, for a resume of the Region's reasons for not following national policy in this area. Because of the nature of the commitment given to Parliament a reply by the end of September would be appreciated. A telephone call in the first instance would suffice.

I am copying this to the Regional Principal.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

M A HARRIS  
Health Services Division 1