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DEPARTMENT

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Date 2 August 1989

Professor J D Cash
Scottish National Blood
Transfusion Service
Ellen's Glen Road
Edinburgh
EH17 7QT

Dear Professor Cash

Thank you for your letter of 28 July concerning the introduction of additional routine screening tests on blood donations; in particular you referred to the CHIRON test for Non A Non B Hepatitis, the HIV 1+2 test and the HIV2 test.

As you are aware there is a UK Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood which is meeting regularly and considering the sensitivity and specificity of the tests available for a variety of infective agents including those named above. If it is considered desirable to introduce a further routine screening test for blood donors I understand that this will be done simultaneously throughout the UK - as was done in the case of the current HIV test.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr Jeremy Metters, Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and to administrative colleagues here in SHHD.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

DR A D McINTYRE

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