



National Blood Transfusion Service

SOUTH LONDON TRANSFUSION CENTRE

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Telephone 01-672 8501-7 ext

Director Dr. K. LI. Rogers

Deputy Director Dr. T. A. Wood

Our Ref: KLR/ES

Your Ref:

10th June, 1983.

Dr. D. Walford,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Elephant and Castle,
London, SE1

Dear Dr. Walford,

AIDS Pamphlet

I am sorry I did not write to Tom about his first draft of this document. It only arrived the week before Whitsun, during which I was ill, and the 'final' draft was prepared just over a week after we received the first draft and arrived with us when I was on holiday!

The text of the new draft is only marginally changed from the first draft, though the paragraphs have been shuffled around a bit. I think the first page could benefit from some editorial re-shaping since I think the train of the argument in some places will be difficult to follow by the uninitiated.

Later on, though it is difficult to define, I think we need to give some indication as to what we mean by 'promiscuity'. I am not sure that we want to turn off all homosexuals and I think the third paragraph on the second page may do this.

I am not sure whether this leaflet merely intends to inform the general public about AIDS or whether it is really trying to get the message across "promiscuous homosexuals - we would rather not have you as donors" clearly enough.

Perhaps my biggest fear for this document is that it will not be read by those who most need to read it for fear that they will identify themselves as homosexuals. We have problems at sessions with donors who have to sit around waiting to be clerked in and then waiting to get to the bleed bed who then find they are rejected for some quite trivial reason. We are looking towards putting up a poster, where those waiting to get to the clerk's table can see it, which identifies a number of broad categories of people who might just as well go away and not waste their time. We are thinking of donors with URTI, PREGNANCY or YOUNG BABIES, RECENT MINOR SURGERY, ACTIVE HAY FEVER, RECENT TREATMENT WITH ANTI-BIOTICS FOR MINOR CONDITIONS, RECENT CONTACT WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES, LIKE CHICKEN POX. I had hoped to put up a large placard listing some of these common and simple causes for debarment of a donor and include AIDS prominently in this list. The bottom of the poster would refer them to a hand-out which they could take and I had hoped that the hand-out prepared by Dr. Davies

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and Dr. Barbara would include AIDS prominently amongst some brief advice about the whole list of causes for debarment.

In this way, a homosexual could quite freely pick up one of these pamphlets, read it and walk out and nobody would know which of the various items on the list had persuaded him to leave. Since there is still a social stigma attached to homosexuality, I am very much afraid that a very specific pamphlet like this will not have the desired effect.

Yours sincerely,

K. Ll. Rogers
Director.

c.c. Dr. T. Davies, R.T.C. Edware