

NATIONAL BLOOD



TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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IDF/GS

15th June, 1983.

Dear Bill,

re: AIDS

The medical staff of this Centre discussed your letter regarding AIDS. We still do not support the idea of asking donors, on the questionnaire, if they have had night sweats, weight loss or lymph gland enlargement. As far as our region is concerned there is no where where a private discussion can be held between the medical officer and the donor. We find it hard enough explaining Hb failure to the donor!

We would not support the idea of handing out the AIDS pamphlet to all donors, this would slow down the session anyway. However we feel the pamphlets should be on prominent display. We wonder whether it would be helpful to display a poster at the entrance of the session bringing the donors' attention to AIDS, stating that the disease may be transmitted by blood transfusion and if the prospective donor falls into any of the 'at risk' categories then he/she should not donate. We would suggest they rang the Transfusion Centre to speak to the duty doctor if they wanted further advice.

I think all of us are fairly broadminded here and none of us actually objected to the idea of putting into the questionnaire an enquiry about homosexual activities. Our general experience has been that first time donors do read the notice but regular donors do not actually read it although they sign in!

In summary we like the idea of the pamphlet being available but not given to all donors. We do not object to a broad enquiry regarding homosexual practices and we suggest that a poster could be sited at the front of the session possibly to dissuade 'at risk' donors from coming into the session.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

I. D. Fraser.

Dr. W. Wagstaff,
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