



*Mr Murray* *Mr Thomson* *Mr Angus*  
22/6

**SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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Dear John

SCOTTISH PARTICIPATION IN UK RESEARCH PROJECT ON  
TRANSFUSION ASSOCIATED NON A, NON B HEPATITIS

There seems to be some confusion on this subject.

When the matter was raised earlier this year I discussed it with colleagues in the Department and it was agreed in principle that there should be a Scottish component to the proposed UK research project on transfusion associated Non A, Non B Hepatitis. This would expand on the research previously carried out in the West of Scotland, which was funded by our Chief Scientist Office, and if the research substantially increased the information on which a decision could be made about instituting the rather expensive routine procedures proposed for screening for Non A, Non B Hepatitis, then it was likely to receive considerable support from the service side of the Department.

It was understood of course that the Scottish component of the research programme would be subject to the scrutiny of the appropriate CSO Advisory Committee. The intention was that those CSO staff involved with the consideration of the Scottish component of the research would communicate with their DHSS counterparts considering the elements of the research proposed for the 3 English centres in order to facilitate the prospect of a uniform decision.

On 22 April the appropriate forms were sent out for an application to the Chief Scientist Office but for reasons which I have not yet fully understood it was decided by the South East Scotland BTS not to proceed with the application.

Following our telephone conversation on 15 June I now understand that you wish to proceed with the research project and to submit an application to the CSO for funding. Before doing so you may wish to consider whether with the passage of time you are now out of step with the English phase and whether or not it

will be possible to catch up. It is unfortunate that this time lapse has occurred but if you feel that it can be made up then an application to the CSO should be lodged with Dr W Forbes by 7 August for consideration at the meeting of the Biomedical Research Committee on 25 September.

As you are aware the outcome of this research has considerable implications and it is unlikely that funds would be made available for the routine screening of blood donations for Non A, Non B unless it could be clearly shown that this was practical and worthwhile.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

DR A D MCINTYRE

PS Since dictating this letter I have seen the two letters on this subject in the Lancet of June 13th and these may influence your decision regarding further research.