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Written Answer

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NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE : FACTOR VIII

W46 Mr Michael Hancock (SD Portsmouth South):

To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services, what studies the National Blood Transfusion Service has undertaken into the economics of self-sufficiency in Factor VIII; and if the results are to be published.

MR KENNETH CLARKE

We decided in 1982 that this country should become self-sufficient in blood products. This will eliminate the health risks attached to the use of imported commercial products derived from blood provided by paid donors.

In order to achieve self sufficiency in England and Wales it was decided to redevelop the Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree. An economic appraisal of this project demonstrated that this policy would be cost effective. This appraisal was prepared for internal purposes and is not in a form which others would find helpful without the addition of further explanatory and background material.