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*From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

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13 APR 1984

Sir Paul Hawkins TD MP

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 16 March about the re-development of the Blood Products Laboratory (BPL) and the use of Travenol blood packs in Regional Blood Transfusion Centres (RTCs).

The efficient operation of the new production unit at BPL, Elstree is dependant on a three-fold increase in the amount of blood plasma supplied by RTCs. When Norman Fowler and I visited Elstree recently for the laying of the Foundation Stone, Dr Richard Lane, Director of BPL, explained to us that widespread use of the new blood packs, including those made by Travenol, is one means of achieving this objective.

We do of course recognise that an increase of this magnitude in plasma procurement will need extra resources and that is why the Secretary of State has asked Regional Health Authorities to ensure that income derived from the newly introduced handling charges for blood and blood products supplied in the private sector is used to help achieve this increase.

The issue of increased plasma procurement is to be discussed next week at our Advisory Committee on the National Blood Transfusion Service, although I have to recognise that the final decision as to how the money needed for increased plasma production is spent is a matter for individual Regional Health Authorities. The problem you raise in your letter is a serious one, and I have asked my officials to ensure that it is brought to the attention of the Advisory Committee next week.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

THE LORD GLENARTHUR