



SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Headquarters Medical Unit
Livingstone House
39 Cowgate
Edinburgh
EH1 1JR
Tel. No. 031-220 4590
Fax No. 031-220 3105

Please quote our reference number on all correspondence

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24 January 1991

Dr H H Gunson
National Director
NBTS
Gateway House
Piccadilly South
Manchester M60 7LP

① Dr. [unclear]
② Mrs. [unclear] [unclear]
I had not seen this when we spoke. The point made by Dr. [unclear] is very valid and suggests we support him.

GRO-C

28/1

Dear Harold

ANTI-HCV : DONATION TESTING

Many thanks for your memo of 22nd January.

I have liaised with SNBTS RTDs and we are unanimous in advising, with the greatest respect but in the strongest possible terms, that anti-HCV donation testing should not be commenced in the UK BTS until after the Gulf conflict is over or at least until such time as we are confident our blood collection and microbiology testing teams can cope with what will be quite substantial changes and increased workloads.

Just at the moment there are a lot of exhausted staff in our RTCs and I would judge that when the troops go in, our current frenetic activity will be sustained.

We would be most grateful if you would see Ministers are appropriately advised. We would wish you to emphasise that we do not intend to be obstructive in any way but believe this increased load (HCV donation tests) in the present circumstances could lead to GMP failures in existing overstretched programmes.

We/

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD

2.

We remain firmly committed to starting on the same day as our NBTS colleagues and if pressed by Ministers I would suggest, in the circumstances, a May/June date should be considered. However, I would much prefer to wait another month and then respond to your letter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards

~~Yours~~ sincerely

GRO-C

John D Cash
National Medical & Scientific Director

cc Dr K Calman, Chief Medical Officer (+ letter from HG)
TDs (+ letter from HG)
DMcI (+ letter from HG)
JF (+ letter from HG)

(16/1) (16/3) (16/10) (16/12)