

## NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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HHG/LB

13th June 1990

Dr. M. Contreras,  
Director,  
North London Blood Transfusion Centre,  
Colindale Avenue,  
LONDON. NW9 5BG

Dear Marcela,

**NATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS**

Thank you for your letter of 31st May 1990. First of all may I say that I agree with everything you say about self-sufficiency and why we should be making every effort to achieve this state in England and Wales.

If this matter was made public at the present time, in my view the scenario is likely to be as follows:

The Department will reiterate that Ministers are in full support of self-sufficiency and illustrate this by citing the recent Executive letter and the fact that £60M has been spent on redeveloping BPL. They will point out also that financing has been provided for RTCs to collect the required quantity of plasma to provide sufficient products to achieve self-sufficiency. Moreover, they have told BPL to make every effort to ensure that their products are the preferred product for use in the NHS.

It is true that when we asked for a financial supplement for either the cost of plasma or for BPL, the Department refused on the grounds that they were not convinced that this was necessary at the present time and evidence will be cited that the National agreement is, in most instances, working well. Also, although it is early in the financial year, it will be pointed out that the supply of albumin to hospitals is above target.

If one targets Factor VIII (or even albumin) as a product which is not being used in quantities which are available from

BPL, the argument will be put forward that the DH cannot interfere with clinical freedom and since we are not a totalitarian state no person can be forced to use a particular product.

If in the coming months it is apparent that there is an increasing stockpile of products at BPL and no action is being taken to ensure their distribution to hospitals for use, then I would agree that this should be brought to public attention. To do so now I think would be counterproductive and I hope that the members of the Eastern Division will agree with this conclusion.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

H.H. GUNSON,  
National Director