



Charles Lister
04/10/2000 15:20

Sent by: Charles Lister/HSD2

To: John.STEP@GRO-C
cc: Keith Paley/FPA-FAS/DOH/GB@GRO-C
tom.kelly@GRO-C

Subject: NBS Study

John (sorry about the earlier incomplete version of this minute. I hit the "send" instead of the "save as draft" button).

I promised to get back to you with answers on the reasons for the decision to import plasma from the US and the financial arrangements associated with the departures of the former Chairman and Chief Executive of NBA.

Plasma Importation

I attach the DH press releases of:

- 26 February 1988 announcing that BPL had been authorised to import non-UK plasma for the manufacture of blood products;
- 13 May 1988 announcing the outcome of CSM's review on the use of UK-sourced plasma in blood products.

The 13 May press release sets out the reasons for moving to UK sourced plasma and includes the text of CSM's recommendation.

I suggest the following sentence to explain the decision, following on from the wording in your letter of 18 September to Tom Kelly:

"This was because the theoretical risk that variant CJD could be transmitted by blood products could not be discounted and there was no test that could be applied to donors to detect the presence of the infective agent."

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Please let me know if you need anything further.

Charles

DH Press Release on Plasma Im DH Press Release on CSM Review of Blood

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