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RECYCLING OLD BLOOD - DRUG COMPANIES

94 Mr Ernie Ross (La. Dundee West)

To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services, on how many occasions discussion has taken place between his Department and private drug companies on proposals to sell-off out-of-date blood for the companies to recycle into reagents and blood products; if he will name the companies involved; and if he will now consider discontinuing such discussions.

MR KENNETH CLARKE

The Department held confidential discussions with one British company which expressed an interest in purchasing outdated red cells surplus to NHS requirements for the manufacture of reagents. The company concerned has since decided not to purchase the cells.