

1. Mr ~~Cashman~~ ^{5/c} 26/5
2. Parliamentary

In July 1981 Ministers agreed that the National Blood Transfusion Service could sell to the pharmaceutical industry certain surplus materials and by-products, including out-dated red blood cells, the subject of this PQ. A copy of the then ME(H)'s statement is at flag A.

Only one company, Lorne Laboratories, expressed an interest in purchasing outdated red cells. Exploratory discussions took place between the Department, the company and its local Regional Transfusion Centre but in the event the company has decided not to purchase the cells. It is believed that it has another European source of in-dated red cells from which can be produced better quality reagents.

This question is one of a series of three concerning "blood" tabled by Mr Ross. He has tabled similar questions for reply by the Secretary of State for Scotland. The terms of the suggested reply have been agreed with officials of the Scottish Home and Health Department.

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Mr. Godfrey is content.

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