

CMO

Copy to: Dr Scott
Mr Macniven ✓

BLOOD PRODUCTS**1. Finland/Holland/Scotland**

I attach a copy letter from Mr Donald intimating that there are to be discussions between the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service and their Dutch and Finnish counterparts on 11 October (which I note in passing is a day when Policy Group is scheduled to meet). This is not a meeting which we can stop but it is one where we need to ensure that someone with the appropriate medical and scientific background is there "riding shotgun" and I would be glad if you would let me have your views on our representation.

There may be a background to these links of which I am unaware, but coming new to the subject I don't for the life of me understand why our top priority should not be ensuring that there are adequate links between our service and its English counterpart and in particular between PFC and the English establishment at (I think) Elstree. Speaking to Dr Parry recently (and he seems very open with us) I learned that collaboration between the two establishments was not all that it might be; and I wonder whether there is a risk that these foreign contacts will lead us down a road towards greater 'independence' from England when what we should in fact be considering is ways in which we can maximise the return to Scotland from their research and product-testing efforts. If I have trod on Scottish toes in this minute because we are or have been ahead medically and scientifically then I apologise to those concerned.

2. Factor VIII: Commercial Supplies - Alpha

I attach a copy letter from Mr Donald intimating that there is a risk involved in the use by Lothian Health Board of Factor VIII supplied by Alpha Therapeutic UK Limited. I understand that this is probably not news and that some of the patients to whom this product is being/has been supplied may already be infected. But clearly Mr Donald is looking for a Departmental line on this; and I would be grateful for your views.


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