



3921

2463

Coleg Meddygaeth Prifysgol Cymru  
University of Wales College of Medicine

Department of Haematology  
University Hospital of Wales  
Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XN  
Tel. 0222 - 755944 Ext. 2155

31st May, 1985.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

Expert Advisory Group on Aids,  
D.H.S.S., Hannibal House,  
Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY.

Dear [Redacted]

I am just writing to you to re-inforce the views that I have expressed at the Meeting on 29th May, concerning the rapid introduction of HTLV III antibody screening of blood donors. My anxiety is compounded by the paper from the Middlesex Hospital Group, published this week in the Lancet about the rising prevalence of HTLV III antibody positivity in London. I think that not only haemophiliacs receiving cryoprecipitate but also other groups such as some patients undergoing open-heart surgery or with acute leukaemia etc., could be at a real risk of infection by HTLV III. I therefore think that one or more of the FDA approved tests should be introduced immediately to test donations. Those which test as positive should be discarded and the logistics of re-testing, confirmatory testing and donor counselling could then be dealt with as separate issues. I think that donors would readily accept withholding of all ~~positive~~ results as an interim measure because after all, they are themselves potential recipients. I feel that such testing should be implemented immediately in order to preserve confidence in the Blood Transfusion Service and any temporary increase in expense would just have to be borne.

Finally, I think you should know that I plan to submit a letter to the BMJ along these lines.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

cc [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

HTLV-III TESTING IN ENGLAND & WALES (SITUATION AT JUNE 1985)

3925

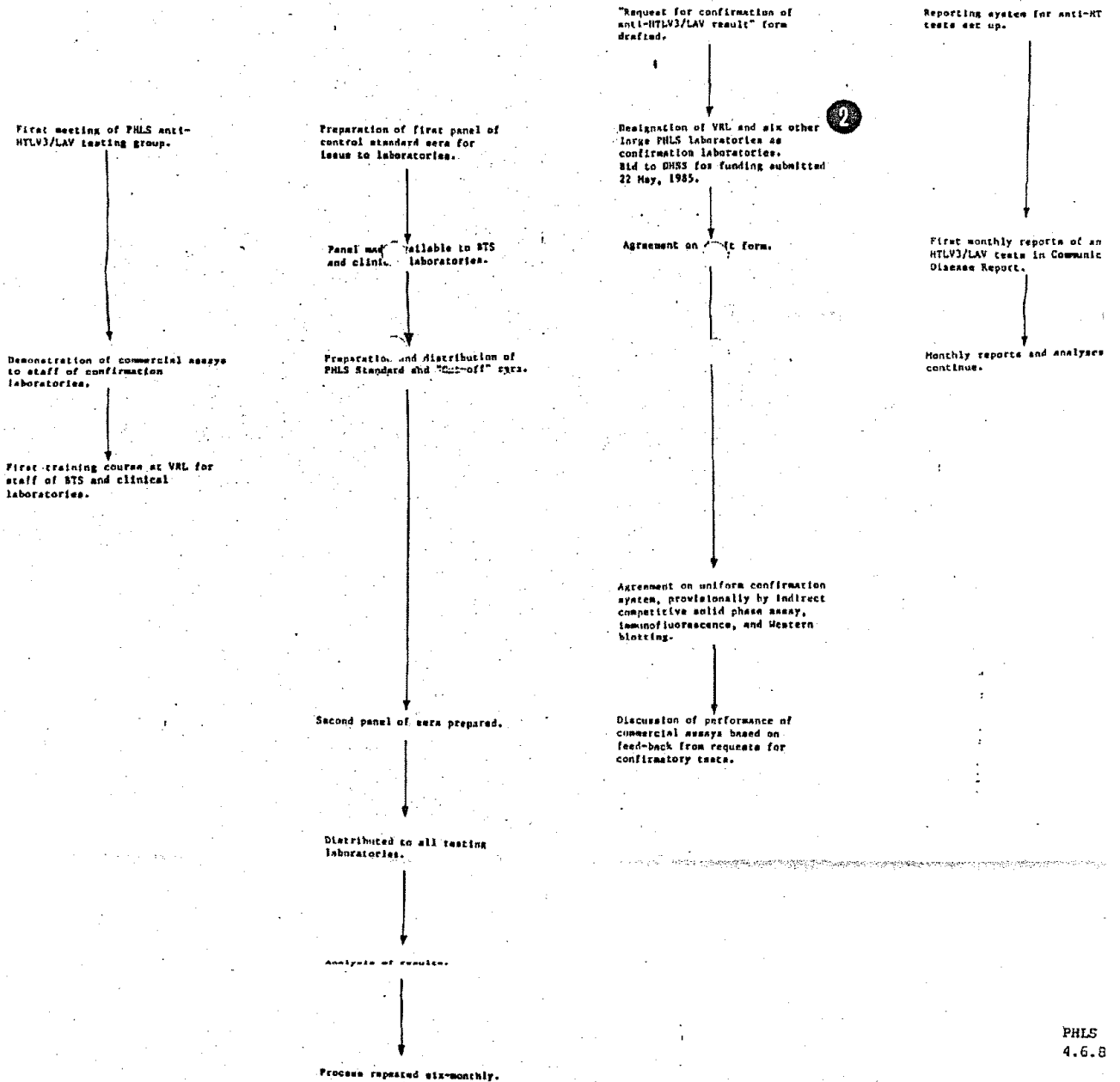
3935

TRAINING

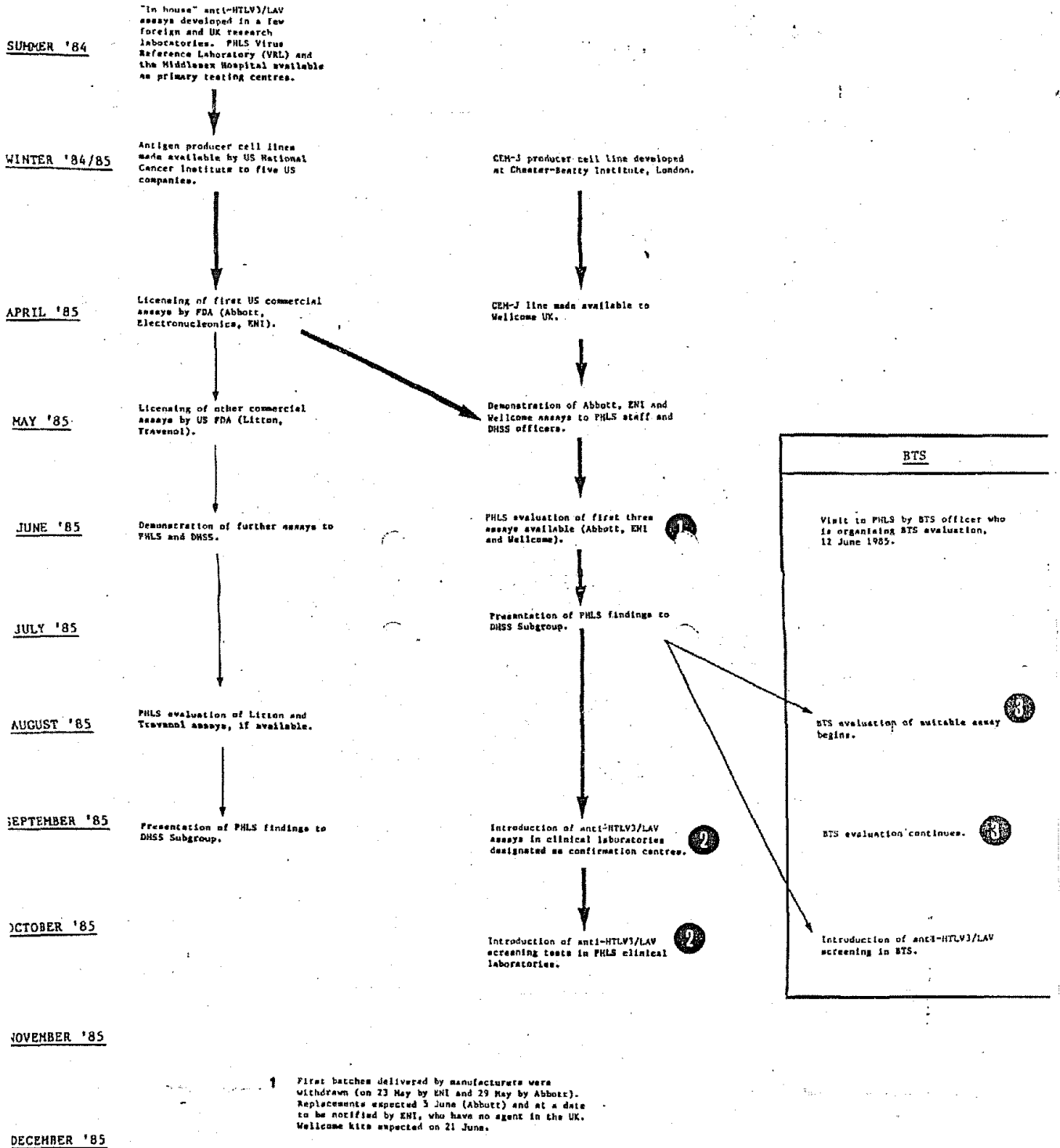
STANDARDISATION AND QUALITY CONTROL

CONFIRMATION OF RESULTS

REPORTING RESULTS TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CENTRE



PRODUCTION, EVALUATION & INTRODUCTION OF SCREENING TESTS



1 First batches delivered by manufacturers were withdrawn (on 23 May by ENI and 29 May by Abbott). Replacements expected 3 June (Abbott) and at a date to be notified by ENI, who have no agent in the UK. Wellcome kits expected on 21 June.

2 The "Confirmation Laboratories" other than VRL all require upgrading to meet current ACOF safety guidelines, and will need some new equipment. A bid for the funding needed was submitted to DHSs on 22 May 1985.

3 The two intermediate steps introduce a degree of duplication, and therefore delay.