

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
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Your reference  
 Our reference

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[REDACTED]  
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 The Business Centre  
 Molly Millars Lane  
 Wokingham  
 Berkshire RG11 2QZ

5 March 1985

Dear [REDACTED]

ANTI - HTLVIII KITS

First let me say that Abbott is to be congratulated on being the first company to obtain an FDA licence. I am sure that this is the result of a tremendous effort on the part of your colleagues in the USA.

We have firm plans to evaluate all the anti-HTLVIII kits that are marketed in the UK and this work will be started as soon as possible. An evaluation protocol is being devised and when it is ready all companies in the field will be given the opportunity to comment on it. All I can say at this stage is that as part of the evaluation we will wish to see, from each company, data in support of performance claims. Such data will be treated in confidence and an early look at the material in support of your product would be helpful, if you can arrange it.

You will know that we have no legal powers to prevent the sale of these products in the UK. However, an evaluation is needed because we know that would-be purchasers in the NHS will be looking to the Department for objective information which will help them in decision making. Of necessity, it will take a little time to get underway and we appreciate that you will wish to start selling now. In the absence of an evaluation report from the Department, we should be grateful if you would provide inquirers with as much information as you can in response to their questions about performance.

I will write to you again when I have more information. In the meantime, I look forward to receiving a written quotation for the supply of an evaluation package.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL BRANCH

cc [REDACTED]  
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