



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY
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31 May 1985

~~_____~~
Public Health Laboratory Service
61 Colindale Avenue
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Dear ~~_____~~

PHLS FACILITIES FOR TESTING FOR HTLV 3 ANTIBODY

This is a follow-up to our conversation this morning about the importance that Ministers and the Department attach to completing the evaluation of the AIDS test as rapidly as possible and to have in hand the further steps that are needed when the widespread introduction of tests takes place. CMO and I will be reviewing with Ministers on 7 June the position, and I would be grateful if you could let us have by then the flow chart with dates as to when the evaluation studies will be completed and when the Service will be geared up for the countrywide introduction of the test with take-up facilities for confirmatory tests.

You have already kindly let us have an estimate of the resources which you will require but we wish to be reassured that apart from any financial considerations there are no impediments within the Service to the introduction of the test. Ministers must be in a position to announce the steps that the United Kingdom has taken with the background knowledge that many countries, such as Germany, France, USA and Australia are already testing for the antibody.

I know that you will be on leave next week and therefore am copying this letter to ~~_____~~ so that the PHLS Working Group on AIDS under his chairmanship can be made aware of the importance that Ministers and the Department attach to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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