

DR COVELL

64

**SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

St Andrew's House Edinburgh EH1 3DE

Telephones 031-556 [REDACTED] ext

TO: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL OFFICERS

8 July 1985

Dear Doctor

LABORATORY TESTS FOR HTLV III ANTIBODY

In my letter of 16 April to Dr R C Graham, copied to all CAMOs, I mentioned that Health Boards should consider what facilities should be made available for testing persons other than bona fide blood donors.

As you know the various tests for HTLV III antibodies are being evaluated; in due course routine screening and confirmatory tests will be recommended. It is probable that routine screening of blood donors will begin before the end of this year. Experience elsewhere has shown that in order to prevent people from presenting as blood donors solely to establish their antibody status the provision of alternative screening facilities is essential.

It would be helpful if you would inform the Department of how you propose to provide this facility. Please reply to Dr R G Covell, Room 2, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DE (031-556 [REDACTED] Ext [REDACTED]) who will be glad to discuss any problems with you.

Yours sincerely

G A SCOTT
Deputy Chief Medical Officer