

Mr Panton

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNSELLING OF HCV SEROPOSITIVE DONORS  
INFORMING THE DONOR

IX I sent you yesterday a copy of these recommendations prepared by SNBTS and you agreed to discuss them with your colleagues in DoH. As you know I am particularly concerned about paragraph 3.4 on page 6 which states:-

'In the case of regular donors, the fate of previous donations is determined and 'look back' initiated in accordance with SNBTS policy.'

The answer to the second question on page 4 suggests that the recipients of previous donations will be contacted and checked to see that they are alright.

IA In the present state of knowledge, donors who are only HCV seropositive donors without evidence of antigen may not be infectious. What purpose is to be served by going back. Will it cause the recipient of the blood (the 50% who are still alive after 2 years) unnecessary worry and possibly distress. In certain circumstances it could also give rise to litigation and it may be that you would wish to discuss this particular point with our Solicitors before this policy is put into effect.

IB The guidance is a little bit woolly about the guidance to be given in respect of sexual intercourse and the possibility of infection being transmitted in this way. I have already written to Dr Metters at DoH, who is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood, as Professor Tedder has published a paper stating that spread in this manner is a definite possibility. I believe I already sent you a copy of my letter to him.

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*Mr Hogg* <sup>was before 11/7</sup>  
I minuted you on IX and asked for SNBTS clarification on look-back and policy. When you have this we can consider IA.

I don't recall IB - if we don't have a copy could you get one

*R.* 11/7.