

Mr W as of 4
M. McKeown mby/s.
File

PS/Mr MacKay

Copies to: PS/SHHD
Mr Walker
Dr Scott
Director, SIO

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

Mr MacKay may have seen comment recently in the media about AIDS. He might find it helpful to see some briefing material on the matter prepared earlier in the week by DHSS for the Prime Minister.

We agree with the general line in the briefing. There are, however, a few Scottish points to be made:-

(i) Imported Factor VIII

Scotland is virtually self-sufficient in Factor VIII. Occasional purchases of imported concentrate are made for clinical reasons: only a very few patients are involved.

(ii) Scottish cases

No confirmed case of AIDS has yet been reported in Scotland. Any suspected or diagnosed case will be reported to the Communicable Diseases Unit at Ruchill, which is in regular communication with CDSC, Colindale and the WHO European Office.

(iii) Donation Policy

The Blood Transfusion Directors in Scotland are very aware of the problem and have it under constant consideration. They are currently considering:-

- (a) Briefing all front line blood bank staff to handle questions from donors.
- (b) Preparing a neutral factual leaflet about AIDS and making this available at donor sessions - perhaps drawing attention to it as a follow-up to recent press and television publicity.
- (c) Informal contact with representatives of the relevant gay associations.
- (d) Avoiding collection in high risk locations such as prisons or where there is known to be a high proportion of homosexuals or drug abusers in the population.

JGD
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