



SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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JDC/EP

7th January 1987

Dr C A Ludlam
Director
Haemophilia Centre
Department of Haematology
Royal Infirmary
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Dear Christopher

Assessment of New NHS Blood Products

Thank you for your letter of the 5th January.

As you know I have much sympathy with the basis of your concern and since 1983 have given you my fullest support on this matter. I more than appreciate that you have not reached this decision lightly but very much regret the timing of its announcement. We have lost a valuable 6 weeks.

As you know, as things stand at the moment the PFC stocks of our existing factor VIII concentrate will be exhausted some time in February 1987. Indeed the batch dedication programme will have to stop at the end of January. It would seem to me that we ought, for the sake of the patients, to examine some options together. Perhaps this could best be done by asking you to respond, as soon as possible, to some questions:-

Given written (SHHD) assurance that appropriate compensation will be available to patients/relatives in the context of clinical assessment of Z8:

- (a) Would you be prepared to use your best efforts to undertake recovery and t/2 life studies as quickly as possible, bearing in mind the PFC supply position?
- (b) If Z8 proved to have acceptable recovery/t/2 life and there were no untoward (clinical) effects in the patients studied in (a) above would you be prepared to use Z8 immediately thereafter for routine clinical purposes?
- (c) If time runs out on us (i.e. we can't complete the Z8 in vivo recovery/t/2 life studies before PFC stocks of factor VIII are exhausted) is it your intention to ask the Lothian Health Board to purchase product or would you prefer us to start up (if possible) the old intermediate (NY) factor VIII process again and thus maintain a no change position?

2.

Dr C A Ludlam

7th January 1987

I'd be most grateful if you would contact me as soon as possible as I must confess to a deep seated fear that the nature of the game that's being played is getting perilously near to Russian Roulette!

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

John D Cash

Copy to:
Transfusion Directors