



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
14 RUSSELL SQUARE LONDON WC1B 5EP
TELEX 23514 TELEPHONE 01-636 6811 EXT [REDACTED]

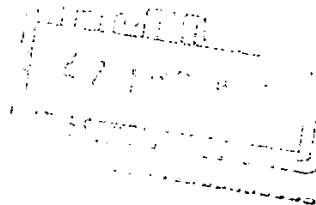
Your reference
Our reference

*Send to
BHC & ACB
23/3/85*



Dr John Cash
National Medical Director
Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
Headquarters Unit
Ellen's Glen Road
EDINBURGH EH17 7QT

25 March 1985



Dear John - ray I?

Thank you for your letter of the 14 March. I am sorry that you will be unable to attend the next two meetings of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS.

As you are aware the Screening Sub-Group of the EAGA have not finalised their report, indeed the note of their meeting of the 1 March which we saw at the last EAGA meeting has not yet been confirmed. No doubt if Dr McClelland is unhappy with it he will have an opportunity to comment at the next sub-group meeting. And I am sure that the important issue of comparative testing with the Western Blot for any confirmatory test used in the UK will be satisfactorily settled.

The names of the members of the ad hoc panel considering the evaluation of diagnostic kits are:

Professor Patterson
Dr P P Mortimer
Dr E Folett
Dr A A Cod
Dr Pritchard (Welsh Office)
Mr P Lister - Chairman)
Mr D Kennedy - Secretary) DHSS

Professor George Knox has also been asked to give an opinion on the protocol for the initial (Stage 1) evaluation. It is intended to enlarge the membership of the ad hoc panel to agree finally the protocol for the field evaluation in the Blood Transfusion Service.

I believe a number of the points you make in your letter reflect the different practices that are possible in the smaller Scottish Blood Transfusion Service which are not possible in the larger service provided in England and Wales. So as to accommodate this a degree of flexibility in the recommendations must be maintained. I will most certainly bear the points you have made in mind in the

in the forthcoming meetings. But I should say that there are equally strong feelings in favour of some of the points which you are opposed to. It is surely too much to expect that everyone will have the same views on everything!

A copy goes to Harold Gunson.

yours sincerely

Michael

M E ABRAMS