

JDC/EP

22nd August 1985

Dr M Sibellas
Department of Health & Social Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant & Castle
LONDON SE1 6BY

Dear Dr Sibellas

Expert Advisory Group on AIDS

Many thanks for the copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July.

I must confess to being a little disappointed by the lack of emphasis and detail on the point which I made and which, I thought, had the full support of the Expert Group. I refer to the establishment of avenues by which members of the public can have access to confidential HTLV-III antibody testing without going through their GPs or GUM Clinics.

I appreciate this topic is perhaps covered in para 7.3.2. by the word "elsewhere", but I'm bound to say I am far from certain, from the Minute, that the Department has accepted this proposal and will inform Regional General Managers accordingly. Certainly I am unaware that there have been appropriate messages to parts North of the border and we are but weeks away from introducing screening in the BTS.

I hesitate to point out that whilst the CMO, on the 15th July, indicated that this idea was a new one to the Department, this is not so. I raised the matter at the first meeting (29th January, 1985) and had the support of Drs Tedder and McClelland (see Minute Note 22).

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

John D Cash

Copy to:

Dr A Smithies, DHSS
Dr D B L McClelland
Dr H H Gunson
Dr R G Covell, SHHD