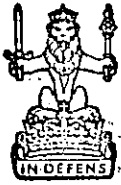


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SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
St. Andrew's House, EDINBURGH, EH1 3DE
Telephone: 031-556 8501, ext. [REDACTED]

Major-General H C Jeffrey
National Medical Director
Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
17 Rothesay Terrace
EDINBURGH

16 May 1975

Dear General Jeffrey

BLOOD DONATION AND HEPATITIS

Further to our conversation I enclose a copy of the circular letter sent out by the Chief Medical Officer, DHSS to all Regional Medical Officers and Regional Transfusion Directors in England and Wales.

I understand the present position is that the red blood cells of all donors from endemic malarious areas are discarded and it is intended that this practice should continue. No attempt is made at the present time to identify donors from "high risk" hepatitis areas although it is possible that in certain areas with a high immigrant population a local code of practice exists.

I understand that the purpose of this letter is to ensure that all donors are asked where they were born. Those from high risk hepatitis areas will have their red cells discarded until such time as the more sensitive test is introduced. My understanding is that once the new test is introduced the decision whether or not to use blood will depend on the result of this test irrespective of the donors ethnic group or country of origin.

We would be interested to have your comments on this matter once you have had an opportunity to discuss it with the Scottish Transfusion Directors.

Yours sincerely

A D McINTYRE