



SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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Please reply to: SNBTS Medical Unit, Livingstone House,
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JDC/PW

6 February 1990

Dr R Crawford
Consultant
West BTS

Blood Shortages *Kidwell*
Clarrie's Home.

My Dear Bob

Blood Shortages

Many thanks for your detailed letter of the 29 January. Before I respond I would wish to plead with you and your colleagues that my original letter to Ruthven was not intended to be hostile. It is enormously important for us all to adopt a more thoughtful and constructive response to what is fundamentally medical audit. Your letter, without doubt, achieves that aim - many thanks.

Now back to business. Some points:-

- a. I don't think anyone would wish to counter your conclusion that around 10 January the WBTS stocks were very low. Nor do I believe it appropriate for HQ staff in these circumstances to challenge the medical decision you made and your subsequent liaison with peripheral hospital blood banks.
- b. The issue we're currently debating Bob is whether the fullest interaction with other RTCs took place. I suggested in my letter to RM that it didn't seem to me it had. I would now suggest that your letter seems to confirm this. At the top of page 2 in your letter of 29 January you record "The fax showing the stock position of other RTCs indicated that there was no spare RCC anywhere in Scotland". I presume, as a consequence, no RTC interaction took place.

If we look at the relevant data, which formed the basis for your conclusion, on 10 January, it reads as follows (figures are + or - in relation to minimal stocks)

Date	WBTS	Rest of SNBTS
09.01.90	-1450	+1947
10.01.90	-1770	+1557
11.01.90	-1751	+1805
12.01.90	- 964	+1632

(see enclosed)

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD

2.

I conclude that on 9/10 January 1990 the stock position in the rest of SNBTS was in good shape and this explains why SEBTS, during the period when you and Donald were in anguish, were finalising arrangements to ship RCC to Cardiff.

Ruthven has suggested that the other RTCs should have responded to the daily faxed information 'showing' WBTS low stocks. I suggest the onus must be clearly on the potential recipient.

Yours sincerely

John D Cash
National Medical & Scientific Director

Enc

SC: MR McIntosh