

NATIONAL BLOOD



TRANSFUSION SERVICE

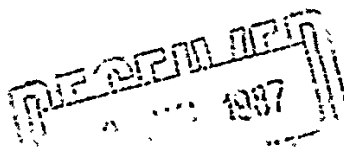
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IDF/JCP

2nd July, 1987.

Professor J. D. Cash,
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 Scottish National Blood
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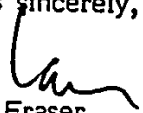
Dear John,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter relating to testing blood donors for non-A, non-B Hepatitis, which I note is due to appear in the Lancet this coming weekend. I think that you will find that the Transfusion Directors in England and Wales will not be very pleased at reading this letter. I recollect that the topic was discussed briefly at the Scottish Transfusion Director's meeting on 10th June last and it was agreed, I thought, that there was a need for synchrony with England and Wales. I have a feeling that the Scottish Directors had already made their minds up that they were going to suggest that surrogate testing for non-A, non-B Hepatitis would be carried out in the Scottish services and I think it is a pity that this was not actually mentioned at the RTD meeting.

Due mainly to your initiative and hopefully with some help from me, we have managed to set up a core group with NIBSC and the Blood Transfusion Services in the U.K. I was assuming that this group would be able to advise on tests that might be required to be carried out on donor blood, at its various meetings, and I would have thought that proposals that you and your colleagues have suggested in this letter should first have been discussed at this core group which is due to meet on 22nd July. I think you will find that there will be some adverse comments in the Lancet from the suggestions that you and your colleagues have made. We all managed to work together to introduce HIV antibody testing on the same date. I think it is only a shame that we have not been able to have the same type of discussion to agree whether or not to implement ALT and/or core antibody testing in the U.K.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,


 I. D. Fraser
 DIRECTOR