

APPENDIX 4

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Scientific Director:  
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Our Ref. jgw.imm  
 Your Ref.

4 July 1983

Dr John D Cash  
 National Medical Director  
 Headquarters Unit  
 Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service  
 21 Ellen's Glen Road  
 EDINBURGH  
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Dear John

Whilst my recent decision to resign from the position of Scientific Director of PFC may have come as some immediate surprise I am certain that you did not find it a total shock because I have made little secret of my view that such a position derives benefit from change; as does the individual incumbent. Equally, I've not concealed my desire not to end my working life at PFC.

To be precisely true to my own belief I should have resigned about 1978 and, indeed, some of my friends have been pressuring me since then to make the break. My problem has been two-fold, I have grown especially attached to the ideals and purpose underlying the SNBTS which I regard as quite unique in the age of materialism and I developed the egotism to believe that I could still contribute maximally to that purpose. On balance I do not think I've done the service great harm in the intervening period when, therapeutic anachronisms notwithstanding, Scotland has become the first country in the world to be truly self-sufficient in plasma fractions.

When I joined the SNBTA in 1967 I was acting as a consultant to three projects and continuation of this activity was a condition of my joining the service. To greater or lesser extent I have continued to act as a consultant to various national and international agencies and I have come to believe that, especially in the developing world, I have a useful contribution to make to society in the broader field. Consequently it is my hope that I can develop an economic consultant activity from which I can earn a living whilst helping others to develop sensible and useful transfusion systems. To that extent, at least, I should be acting as an ambassador of the SNBTS, helping others to achieve what has been achieved in Scotland.

The/

Dr John D Cash - jgw.imm/2

4 July 1983

The timing of my decision has been dictated by two facts, I have increasing domestic commitment within my greater family and I have discovered that the arthritic condition which I have always expected to become manifest has arrived somewhat sooner than I had hoped. I feel, therefore, that time is against me and that I should move now.

Such a decision is not without considerable misgiving. My roots are deep in the SNBTS and they cannot be pulled out totally. The service is far from perfect but, as I've said, it is the best around and I hope sincerely that some smaller part can be found for me to play in its future.

At PFC the service is fortunate in having a most remarkable collection of people who are perfused with a sense of honour and purpose which is, I believe, a very special blending of talent into a powerful tool. It has been, for me, a rare privilege to select, place and aid the maturing of this group of people. Leaving them will not be easy but is made easier, at least, by the fact that they have become a formidable team who work well together to the common good of the team itself, the Centre and the Service. Bill Grant, a steadfast and undenoted source of support, advice, and criticism has much to do with the welding process and I am happy to acknowledge my colossal debt to him.

Between now and the end of March I shall have a lot of house-clearing to do, a lot of memories to store away and, no doubt, a lot of regrets.

I propose to copy this letter to my fellow Directors so that they learn of my purpose as early as possible.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



JOHN G WATT  
Scientific Director

cc Transfusion Directors