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SCOTTISH OFFICE PRESS NOTICE

Issued on behalf of the Scottish Home and Health Department

INFORMATION LEAFLET ON
 AIDS ISSUED

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An information leaflet "AIDS and how it concerns blood donors" has been published today by the Health Departments in the UK for distribution in Scotland by the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service.

AIDS - "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome" - is a disease which destroys the body's immune system which normally protects against infections and other illnesses. It is a comparatively new disease to Britain and the leaflet sets out advice and information to blood donors about the disease itself, the groups at risk and how the risks can be avoided.

No cases of the disease have been confirmed in Scotland and the Scottish Home and Health Department emphasised today that there is no conclusive proof that the disease can be transmitted in blood or in blood products. There is however no screening test the BTS can use to detect people with AIDS and donors ^{are} asked not to give blood if they think they may have the disease or be at risk from it.

* Scotland is self sufficient in whole blood and virtually so in blood products. Nearly all the factor VIII issued for the treatment of haemophilia is produced from blood plasma donated to the SNBTS by blood donors in Scotland.

The Council of Europe has recently recommended that all member states should make information about AIDS available to blood donors.

NOTE TO EDITORS

A copy of the leaflet is attached.

September 1, 1983