

DRAFT (4.2.75)

D.S. /75

To: Regional Administrators

Our ref: H/H/15

IN CONFIDENCE

Date

Dear Sir

## BLOOD PRODUCTS PRODUCTION

1. DS 364/74 of 24 December 1974 described the reasons why it had been decided that earmarked finance of up to £0.5m should exceptionally be provided with the primary aim of making the NHS self-sufficient in AHG concentrate within two to three years. I am now writing to say that Regional targets for increased production of plasma have been fixed provisionally. These have been calculated on the basis of the total number of blood donations collected in 1973 and are set out in Appendix 1. For the reasons given in paragraphs 3 and 4 below the targets are subject to revision in the light of the information supplied by Regions in response to this letter.
2. As Factor VIII is extremely labile, variations in processing during the preparation of frozen plasma (and during its fractionation) may affect the yield of Factor VIII in the concentrate and its stability during storage. It is therefore essential that plasma is collected, separated, frozen and transported under conditions which will minimise loss of activity. To assist in achieving general uniformity among Regions on these matters a memorandum of guidance has been prepared and is attached at Appendix 2. To achieve the targets provisionally allocated in Column 4 of Appendix 1 and having regard to the guidance in Appendix 2, it may be necessary to incur additional expenditure at Regional Transfusion Centres under one or more of the following heads, accommodation, laboratory equipment, transport and staff. The extent of these requirements will vary from Region to Region. To enable the Department to distribute the earmarked finance in a way which will lead to an increased production of plasma on a national basis in the shortest practicable time, we should be grateful if you would review the position in their Regions and submit a return to the Department in the form set out in Appendix 3 not later than [? 27 March].
3. It is possible that some Regions may be unable to reach their provisional target without a degree of expenditure under the heading "Accommodation" which, in the light of the total resources available, would be disproportionate to the amount of plasma to be produced. In those circumstances it would be necessary to revise the provisional targets in Appendix 1. To assist the Department in this respect we would ask you also to submit by [? 27 March]

a return in the manner outlined in Appendix 4. It should be emphasised that all the information given in this return is additional to that given in the Appendix 3 return.

4. Additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Regional Medical Officer, the Regional Treasurer and the Regional Transfusion Director.

Yours faithfully