

Mr Panton

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MRS F. G. 8/2

U. W. 8/2

PS/Minister of State

Copy to: PS/CE
Mr Anderson
Mr Moyes
CMO
Mr McIntosh

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF BLOOD AND TISSUE FOR TRANSPLANTATION (MSBT)

1. The attached letter of 21 January from Mr Tom Sackville MP seeks agreement to the proposal for the formation of a new Advisory Committee to replace the Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood (ACVSB).
2. A new expert Committee the MSBT, is required to provide advice to Health Departments on a much wider range of microbiological safety issues that effect blood, tissues and organs for transplantations. The new Committee would provide a co-ordinated source of advice on tissues and organs for the first time. Details of the background, proposed composition of the Committee and terms of reference are contained in the paper attached to Mr Sackville's letter.
3. We have consulted medical colleagues who have confirmed they are in favour of the setting up of the MSBT and are content with the proposed composition and remit of the Committee. Dr A Keel, SMO, will be the Department's observer on the Committee.
4. I recommend that the Minister confirms his agreement to the proposals and terms of reference of the new Committee and a draft letter is attached.

G. W. Tucker

G W TUCKER
NHS Management Executive 3
Room 260
SAH
Ext [REDACTED]
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