Thank You for Giving Blood

Further Press Information

Scotlands top donor gives record 6OOth donation on Christmas Eve

Mr Bob Christie gives his 600th donation of plasma in the Blood Donor Centre, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh at 9.15 a.m. on Monday 24th December 1990.

This is a magnificant achievement involving a commitment over many years and a record number of donations from any donor in Scotland. There are over 1000 plasma donors in the country as a whole many of whom have given hundreds of donations by plasmapheresis.

Bob became a blood donor twenty years ago and joined the anti-D Rhesus programme as a plasma donor in Inverness in 1974. Since moving to Edinburgh in 1975 he has donated plasma regularly to provide valuable anti-D, a concentrated antibody which is given to mothers to prevent Rhesus disease in new-born babies.

Besides his total commitment as a donor, Bob is a good friend to the Blood Transfusion Service in many other ways. He has served on the executive committees of both the local and national Scotland Association of voluntary blood donors and contributes the donor viewpoint at editorial meetings of Donor News - the bi-annual newspaper produced by the Service especially for blood donors.

Senior members of Edinburgh and Headquarters staff are present to add their congratulations and thanks on this unique occasion to the message of congratulations from the Minister which will be relayed by Mr David McIntosh, the General Manager of Blood Transfusion Service in Scotland.

Notes for News Editor

1. The anti-D Rhesus programme was pioneered in Inverness in 1969.

2. Treatment using the concentrated anti-D antibody is now routine treatment in preventing Rhesus disease in new-born babies which has almost eliminated the disease.

3. Plasmapheresis is a procedure whereby whole blood is taken from donors. The blood runs through a centrifuge which extracts the plasma and returns the red cells to the donor. Because the plasma is made up by the body wi thin hours - donors can give plasma more often than whole blood.