

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service held on Monday 19th September 2011 at 12.30pm in the Boardroom, National Blood Centre, James's Street, Dublin 8.

Present:

- Ms. Katharine Bulbulia, Chairperson**
- Mr. Sean Wyse**
- Ms. Jane O'Brien**
- Ms. Sinead Ni Mhaille**
- Dr. Paolo Rebullia**
- Mr. David Keenan**
- Mr. David Lowe**
- Ms Ann Horan**
- Dr. Hilary O'Leary**
- Mr. Mark Moran**
- Dr Paul Browne**
- Ms Marie Keane**

Also in attendance:

- Mr. Andrew Kelly, Chief Executive**
- Dr. Ian Franklin, Medical & Scientific Director**
- Ms Mirenda O'Donovan, Secretary to the Board**

It was agreed that the December Board meeting would commence at 1.30pm. The Chairperson also thanked Mr Mark Moran for his years of service on the Board, in particular his invaluable contribution on the Audit & Compliance Committee.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of the Board on 18th July 2011

The minutes of the Board meeting on 18th July 2011 were agreed without amendment.

2. Matters arising

Therapeutic Apheresis Service

The CE had written to the HSE Director of Clinical Care to try to resolve this issue and received a response last Friday which proposed a meeting between the Regional Director of Operations, the IBTS and SJH and Dr Paul Browne. The CE noted that previous attempts to resolve the issue through this route had been unsuccessful, but that he would arrange the meeting.

Voluntary Redundancy Scheme

The CE raised this issue with officials from the DOH last week, but has been advised that no progress could be expected before February 2012.

NHO

The draft SLA has been reviewed internally by the IBTS and the amended draft has been returned to the IMB, who have sent it to the DOH. The CE is to meet the CE of the IMB to finalise the wording.

Presentations of the two systems in use in the UK were held in the NBC in August. The IBTS preference is for one system only and the URS for this is being developed.

Virology Contingency

The SNBTS have agreed to provide Virology contingency to the IBTS, following the consolidation of virology testing in the NBC. This is expected to be ready by April 2012.

Dr Lawlor's retirement

The CE noted that the presentation for Dr Lawlor will take place on 13th October. A Locum has been appointed in the interim.

MSM

A change in the deferral policy in England, Scotland and Wales is due to come into effect in November 2011. NIBTS has not yet announced if it will follow suit. It was noted that the usage of language on this issue was particularly sensitive and the CE confirmed that the IBTS had been in touch with GLEN to discuss the communication of its message on this issue on www.giveblood.ie

3. Chief Executive's Report

Blood supply

Usage has continued to be volatile over the summer months, while donations have been very good. There has been an increase in platelets usage again. It is difficult to predict anticipated demand over the coming months, although a decline in hospital activity levels is expected.

BECS

The Peer Review Group members have been nominated and they will receive copies of the completed URS in the coming weeks.

Pension Scheme

An independent actuarial consultant has been appointed to provide options for the Board on the future of the scheme. This report is now due.

Electronic Ordering

This project is now live in 3 hospitals. It is proving difficult to contact the relevant IT personnel in the smaller hospitals in particular.

IMB inspection

There was one major arising from the IMB inspection in the Cork Centre, this was in relation to management of donors with low haemoglobin and is a national policy matter, rather than a Centre specific matter. The M&SD assured the Board that the IBTS is compliant with the Directive on this matter.

HR

Two matters had been referred to the Implementation Body, one which was the transport review and the other in relation to aggregated hours in the donation clinics. The Implementation Body has proposed that the transport review be referred to the LRC and that the aggregated hours issue be dealt with through the HSE EA, the relevant union and IBTS.

Awards Ceremony

The CE reminded the Board that the awards ceremony for 50 and 100 time donors for the South East would be in New Ross on 30th September.

4. Future Strategic Direction of the IBTS

The EMT joined the meeting for this item and the presentation was given by the CE, the M&SD and the Operations Director. Questions from the Board were taken by all members of the EMT.

It was agreed that the Board would accept the next actions as outlined and would expect an implementation plan in December. However, no decisions were taken on the proposals as presented.

The Chairperson thanked the EMT and the Board and the CE noted his thanks for the tremendous amount of work the EMT had put in to prepare the proposals.

5. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Board will take place on **Monday 17th October at 12.30pm.**

Signed: _____

Date: _____