**2,076 new blood donors recruited as a result of recent blood donor appeal**

The IBTS today (9th April 2018) thanked those who responded to its appeal for blood donations in the aftermath of Storm Emma. “On 6th March we made a nationwide appeal for donations as stocks across all blood groups had reached a critical level. The response from the public was tremendous and in the two weeks leading up to St Patrick’s weekend 8,232 people attended our clinics with 6,691 donations successfully collected. As a result of this tremendous collective effort, blood supplies have stabilised and we continue to be able to meet hospital demand,” said Paul McKinney, Operations Director.

“The number of first time donors that responded to our appeal is also very encouraging. The IBTS needs new donors coming through continuously to replace those who are no longer able to give blood. 2,076 new donors have been recruited since the appeal in March 2018, compared to 1,594 for the same period last year which is an increase of over 30%. These donors will become eligible to donate again in early June and we would encourage them to come back and give blood again.”

ENDS

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