**World Blood Donor Day 2022 – donating blood is an act of solidarity - join the effort and save lives**

World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) takes place on 14 June each year. This year the WBDD slogan is “Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives” to draw attention to the roles that voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities.

“The IBTS will mark WBDD 2022 with a social media campaign focusing on donor and recipient stories. Traditionally there is a decline in attendance at clinics over the Summer months and we expect that to be more so this year given the pent up public desire to travel again post the Covid-19 pandemic. World Blood donor Day provides us with an opportunity to remind people that the demand for blood and blood products is constant,” said Paul McKinney, Operations Director, IBTS.

**Note to editors**

The IBTS needs to collect approximately 3,000 donations a week to maintain the national blood supply

One in four of us will need a blood transfusion in our lifetimes

Blood lasts just 35 days

The most common blood group in Ireland is O positive and it is therefore the blood group in most demand.

O negative, the universal blood group, represents only 8% of the population but is as much as 15% of all blood issued to hospitals

**ENDS**