

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service held on Monday 14th February 2011 at 12.30pm in the Boardroom, National Blood Centre, James's Street, Dublin 8.

Present: Ms Katharine Bulbulia, Chairperson
Mr Sean Wyse
Mr David Lowe
Ms Jane O'Brien
Ms Ann Horan
Ms Sinead Ni Mhaille
Dr Paolo Rebullia
Mr Mark Moran
Dr Paul Browne
Dr Hilary O'Leary

Apologies: Ms Marie Keane
Mr David Keenan

Also in attendance: Mr Andrew Kelly, Chief Executive
Dr Ian Franklin, Medical & Scientific Director
Ms Mirinda O'Donovan, Secretary to the Board

1. Minutes of the meeting on 17th January 2011

The minutes of the meeting on 17th January were agreed without amendment. This was proposed by Ms S Ni Mhaille and seconded by Ms J O'Brien.

2. Matters arising

Reconfiguration of services in Cork

The CE is expecting to have a meeting with HSE South before the end of the month to discuss the implications of HSE proposals for services delivered from the Cork Centre. The CE and the M&SD are also going to Cork on Thursday to meet staff at the Centre and the M&SD will be meeting with consultant staff in CUH.

Therapeutic Apheresis Service

A Group has been set up to work through the establishment of this service as a hospital based service. It is being chaired by the D/CEO of SJH.

NHO transfer to IMB

The CE has discussed the transfer of mandatory reporting to the IMB. It has been agreed that a timeline for the transfer be put in place, but it will probably take 12 months as the purchase of a technology solution to hospital wide reporting needs to be purchased and brought on line.

D'Olier Street Review

The Labour Court recommendation has been actioned and the 6 staff have been paid their redundancy.

Recombinants transfer

A number of meetings have taken place to progress this transfer on 1st July. The contract with Pfizer for Factor IX is still under discussion.

Change of date for Board meeting

It was agreed that the April meeting of the Board would now take place on 11th April.

3. Chief Executive's Report

Blood supply

The blood supply has remained very strong since the increase in donations before Christmas. There has also been a decline in issues of blood and platelets since the beginning of the year.

Department of Finance Briefing

The Department of Finance invited all agencies of parent departments to a series of briefings on how the cuts in expenditure across the board are being monitored externally. It was clear at the briefing that the embargo on recruitment is a key part of the Department's strategy to reduce cost and there will be no change in this policy in the foreseeable future.

Quality

The deadline of the end of January for introducing a pilot scheme to address a particular issue was not met due to a number of issues. The CE is following up on this and a revised date of 31st March has been notified to the IMB.

BECS

The proposal to replace Progesa has now been with the DOH&C for 4 months. The delay in progressing to approval is due to the veto being applied by the DOH&C. The CE has requested a meeting with both Assistant Secretaries responsible to discuss the current impasse and seek a resolution.

Governance

The CE is waiting for a proposal from the facilitator in the IPA and is considering March as a possibility for the follow up workshop.

Redundancy Package

This is being progressed through the DOH&C, but ultimately Department of Finance approval is needed.

4. Cork Centre

The question of location had been discussed at length at the last Board meeting. The CE had gone back to the DOH&C to seek clarification on the actual wording of the Government decision – the decision itself did not specify where the new Centre should be located, however the Minister's subsequent announcement and communication to the IBTS specified CUH. The Department have responded that as far as they are concerned, this does not limit the IBTS to CUH only. The Tanaiste has also clarified the Government's position regarding SFH site and that this should proceed as soon as possible.

It was suggested that CUH had a funding allocation of €2m for the development of a stem cell suite and that this should be explored as it could offset some of the parking cost being assigned to the IBTS. It was noted from the clinical point of view co location at CUH would be preferable, but location at SFH need not be an impediment to the development of collaboration with HSE.

The CE briefed the Board on the EMT meeting of 4th February on possible cost saving measures and he proposed that the EMT would come back to the Board in March for a joint meeting to explore those proposals.

It was proposed by Mr M Moran and seconded by Mr S Wyse that the Board proceed with the SFH site, in line with the proposal outlined by the CE in his report. It was agreed that the CE would revert to the Board with a proposed timeline at the next meeting.

5. Pension Scheme

Correspondence from the trustees was circulated and discussed. It was agreed that the Chairperson, the Chief Executive, and the Chairpersons of the Finance and Audit & Compliance Committees would seek a meeting with the legal advisers to discuss the contents of the letter and would revert to the Board at its March meeting.

It was noted by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee that the sum owing to the scheme would be itemised as a separate charge on the accounts.

6. Presentation on Operations

The Director of Operations Mr P Bowler made a presentation to the Board on the outcomes of key change programmes which have been implemented over the past 3 years. The Chairperson thanked him for his detailed, comprehensive and informative presentation. It was noted by Mr M Moran that significant progress had been made over the 3 years and the Chairperson thanked the Operations Director and his team for their efforts in delivering such significant change.

7. Remuneration Committee

The Board noted that the Committee had agreed 2011 targets with the Chief Executive.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Board is on **Monday 14th March** at the **National Blood Centre at 12.30pm**.

Signed: _____

Date: _____