

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service held on Thursday 28th April 2011 at 10.30am in the Boardroom, National Blood Centre, James's Street, Dublin 8.

- Present:** Ms. Katharine Bulbulia, Chairperson
Ms. Jane O'Brien
Ms. Ann Horan
Ms. Sinead Ni Mhaille
Ms. Marie Keane
Mr. David Lowe
- Via Audiolink** Mr. David Keenan
Mr. Sean Wyse
- Apologies:** Mr. Mark Moran
Dr. Paolo Rebutta
Dr. Hilary O'Leary
Dr. Paul Browne
Dr. Ian Franklin
- Also in attendance:** Mr. Andrew Kelly, Chief Executive
Ms. Mirenda O'Donovan, Secretary to the Board

The meeting has been convened to make a decision regarding the historic liability to the pension scheme and the Trustees correspondence regarding the commencement of legal proceedings to compel the Board to pay the monies due to the scheme.

The CE outlined the history of this issue from the actuarial evaluation in May 2008 which identified a requirement for an increase in contributions of 5.5%. In accordance with the Trust Deed this recommendation was presented to the Trustees and they agreed with the actuary. The employer was then consulted with, which fulfilled the requirement of the Trust Deed. Negotiations commenced with staff to seek agreement for an increase in their contribution. Negotiations were at an advanced stage with a conciliation conference arranged when on the eve of that conference the IBTS was informed that staff were covered by the FEMPI Act 2009. Previously the IBTS had been informed by the DoH&C that the Act did not apply. Negotiations broke down at this point. Consequently the burden of paying the contribution fell on the Board for the period 1st May 2008 to 30th April 2009 this amounted to €1.5m. The Board subsequently agreed to meet this amount from the 2009 surplus pending the resolution of the dispute over remission of the pension levy and the ongoing funding of the scheme. However, the DoH&C did not agree with this approach and said it should not be paid.

The Chairperson asked the CE to make a recommendation to the Board for discussion and the CE proposed that the outstanding contributions, now standing at approximately €4.5m be paid. He also said that despite considerable efforts, both by the Board and the Executive, a resolution of the issues had not been reached.

It was agreed by the Board that the payment be made subject to the following conditions:

1. Payment date would be the end of May

2. The letter to the Minister would say that it was the Boards intention to pay the monies at the end of May
3. There was a preference for a holistic solution

Signed: _____

Date: _____