Irish Blood Transfusion Service
Seirbhís Fuilaistriúcháin na hÉireann

MINUTES

Date of Meeting	20/04/2026	***Ref***	26/02/MO'D
Meeting	**IBTS Board**		
Present	Deirdre-Ann Barr, Chairperson; John Quinn, Ann O'Connor; Kevin Gregory, Dr Nina Orfali, Dr Jean-Baptiste Thibert; Peter Dennehy, Noel Beecher, Una Clifford		
Via Zoom	Dr Sharon Sheehan; Stephen O'Hare		
In attendance	Orla O'Brien, Chief Executive; Dr Andy Godfrey, Medical & Scientific Director; Mirenda O'Donovan, Secretary to the Board. Item 5.0 Peter Dudley, Scott Tallon Walker; Chris Gogarty SMP; Item 6.0 Gerry Carson, Version 1 and CIO Catherine Hughes; Item 7.0 Laura Murphy, Strategy, Planning and Performance Manager; Item 8.0 Idelle Hawkins, HR Director.		

#	**Item**	**Notes/Action**
1.0	The Board met in Private Members Time.	
2.0	**Conflicts of Interest**	
2.1	No conflicts of interest declared.	
3.0	**Apologies**	
3.1	No apologies.	
4.0	**Minutes of the Board meeting held on 23rd February**	
4.1	The minutes of the Board meeting held on 23rd February were approved, subject to amendment.	
5.0	**Presentation on the Cork Centre Development**	
5.1	The meeting was joined by the design team lead architect, the project manager and the Finance Director. The various site options that were proposed were outlined, including how the final site was selected. It was confirmed that the Centre staff through the project team were consulted on the layout and design proposed and would have sight of the final proposed layout and design. The design brief will be updated now that the site has been confirmed and will be brought back to the Board. Future proofing the new build was discussed. Parking availability on the site discussed. A meeting with the planning consultant has been arranged and a preliminary discussion with Cork City Council will follow. Whether the new building would qualify as strategic infrastructure was discussed. Location of the new electricity substation was discussed. Factors impacting the planning process and timeline were discussed. Project Manager presented the proposed budget and timeline. The potential to progress some stages in parallel rather than sequentially discussed. The budget summary was outlined. Potential impact of international events discussed. Funding of the development was discussed. The CE confirmed that the DoH is aware of the funding requirement and that this redevelopment was originally a Cabinet decision. Sustainability and net zero requirements discussed. Site surveys and site investigations were confirmed as the next steps in the process.	
6.0	**Digital Strategy**	
6.1	CIO and Version One, joined the meeting for this item. CIO outlined the context of the Digital Strategy. Alignment of the Digital Strategy with the Business Strategy was essential.	

	Governance arrangements for progressing digital strategy and keeping it aligned with the business strategy outlined. CIO will develop an implementation plan based on this strategy and is reasonably confident it can be progressed. CIO also added that the data strategy is well advanced. Ongoing projects with an IT component discussed. Current governance and oversight of IT projects discussed. CIO affirmed that technology needs to be able to support the business objectives now and into the future. The Chair thanked G Carson and the CIO for attending the meeting. Version One Rep left and the CIO remained for a discussion on eProgesa. CIO also confirmed that the procurement of competitive dialogue expertise is ongoing.	
8.0	**IBTS Strategic Human Resources update**	
8.1	HRD joined the meeting for this item. HRD identified the organisational health as being good with high retention, strong engagement and a stable workforce. The strategic HR priorities were identified as workforce sustainability, LEAN driven efficiency, recognition and appreciation. Three main priorities identified in the staff survey action plan for 2026, these are delivery of visible fixes to IT systems, resolution of pay parity issues transparently and fairly (to the extent they are within the control of the IBTS) and rebuild communication and leadership visibility. HRD presented a detailed overview of the two black belt projects underway; (i) the donor experience and blood in, and (ii) the change control process. The staff survey outcomes were discussed. The HR strategic priorities for the next one to two years were outlined. These are strengthening workforce sustainability and succession, advancing digital HR and data capability, deepen LEAN maturity across HR and people processes and enhance leadership capability and culture development. HRD added that there has been a definite shift in how employees are pursuing grievances/complaints. Employees are now more likely to pursue multiple paths to follow through on their issues, rather than single internal processes. This has substantially increased the administrative burden in HR. The Chair thanked the HRD for her presentation.	
9.0	**Chief Executive's Report**	
9.1	It was agreed that the Chief Executive's Report would be taken as read and she would highlight a number of issues which are current. The Strategic Plan and Business Plan for 2026 have both been verbally approved by the DoH. The PDA and Oversight agreements have been signed by the DoH and are available to the Board in Decision Time resources. The CE briefed the Board on a number of current issues. The project delivery tracker included in the CE report was noted and the CE asked that any feedback on the reporting format could be sent to her or to L Murphy directly. CE confirmed that corneal retrieval authorisation has been received from the HPRA. It was noted that the AB Plasma batch did not meet the specification required and the order of AB plasma will likely be sourced from US donors, which meets the same required safety profile. The new DPO commenced in post last week. An update regarding the IBTS's self-assessment against the CyFun standards due to go to ARCC in September.	

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	The CE noted that the IBTS is hosting the biannual meeting of the EBA in Dublin from 6th to 8th May. The reduction in new donor recruitment year on year was discussed. The agenda for the Board's away day on 25th May was discussed and a number of suggestions made to reorganise the agenda.	
10.0	**Medical & Scientific Director's Report**	
10.1	Red cell issues in March were almost 6% higher than for the same period in 2025**.** 120 units were imported from the NHSBT on 19th March and IBTS went to appeal on 7th April. The ongoing issue with O negative demand remains a concern. M&SD confirmed that he has had very positive engagements with the prescribing consultants on managing this limited resource. The emergency blood management group are meeting regularly to keep the blood supply under close review. It was noted that the demand for O negative has increased but has been met with only one importation in 2026 to date.	
11.0	**Minutes of Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee meeting of 17th February**	
11.1	Taken as read. The Chair of the Committee had no additional matters to raise noting the eProgresa issue had been discussed with the CIO.	
12.0	**Minutes of the Medical, Scientific Advisory Committee of 23rd February**	
12.1	Taken as read. The Chair of the Committee had no matters to raise. The MSAC had also met earlier on the day, and the Chair noted that the developments in the R&D space were presented.	
13.0	**Finance Committee**	
13.1	The Chair noted that the C&AG audit is not scheduled to start until May but the C&AG have advised the financial statements are on track to be available for the Board to review at the meeting scheduled for 8th June.	
14.0	**Performance Development Committee meeting on 19th January and 30th March**	
14.1	The Chair highlighted progress on the Medical Model of Care and that the specification for the NHO Director is with the HPRA, while the Director of the Eye Bank Dr B Quill is also now in post.	
15.0	**Date of next meeting**	
15.1	The next meeting of the IBTS Board will take place on **Monday 8th June at 12 noon in the NBC.**	
15.2	The Board away day will commence at **1pm on Monday 25th May at the Hyatt Centric Hotel**	

Signed:_____________________________ Date:________________________