**IBTS imports blood to supplement RhD Negative blood stocks**

The IBTS announced today (Friday) that it is importing a delivery of blood to address a current shortage in certain blood groups. In all, 270 units of O RhD Negative, A RhD Negative and B RhD Negative were imported early this morning.

“A sustained surge in hospital demand and increasing trends in service provision for patients  has led the IBTS to review how we manage our supply of rarer blood groups and we are now  liaising with other blood establishments to supplement our stocks as needed,” said Dr Andy Godfrey, IBTS Medical & Scientific Director.

“The response to our recent appeal for donors has been exceptional and we are very grateful for all those who came forward. However, while an appeal would usually provide us with an additional 2.5 days of O RhD Negative, on this occasion O RhD Negative stocks actually fell by 0.8 days.

“Since the appeal for donors earlier this month, we have collected 8893 units which is 1141 units more than the same time last year but the deficit in supply of RhD Negative blood groups remains.

“The ongoing issue is because RhD Negative donors are a small proportion of the overall donor population which is now being exceeded by the increasing patient demand for RhD Negative blood.

“Optimising blood utilisation across jurisdictions in Europe is now routine practice and blood services are encouraged to have collaborative arrangements in place.  Preventing any adverse impact on patient care is always our priority, so instead of restricting supply to hospitals, we are moving to following routine practice and liaising with other blood establishments to share these limited resources,” said Dr Godfrey.

ENDS