

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 12.30pm in the Boardroom, National Blood Centre, James's Street, Dublin 8.**

**Present:** Ms. Katharine Bulbulia, Chairperson  
Mr. Sean Wyse  
Ms. Jane O'Brien  
Dr. Paolo Rebullia  
Mr. David Lowe  
Ms Ann Horan  
Dr Paul Browne  
Ms Marie Keane  
Dr Hilary O'Leary  
Mr. Dave Keenan

**Apologies:** Dr Lelia Thornton  
Ms Sinead Ni Mhaille

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

The Chairperson wished everyone a happy new year and thanked them for their continued input and commitment.

**1. Minutes of the meeting of the Board on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**

The minutes of the Board meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December were agreed without amendment.

**2. Matters arising**

*Therapeutic Apheresis Service*

The CE and the M&SD met Dr B White, the CE of SVUH and the CE of Tallaght Hospital to discuss this issue. SJH were unable to attend. SVUH is to discuss the service with the Mater Hospital and the CE of Tallaght Hospital and Dr B White will discuss supporting Tallaght's requirements with SJH.

*IMB Inspection*

The IBTS response to the inspection report will be going back to the IMB next week.

*Prion Filtration*

The costs have been looked at, but additional work has to be done regarding the volume of filters that may be required and how much this will affect price.

*Recombinants*

The CE is still hopeful that the legislative change will be put through the Oireachtas before the end of March.

### **3. Chief Executive's Report**

#### *Blood supply*

There was some concern expressed at the continued fall in new donors. The CE pointed out that there had been some issues with holding clinics on college campuses last year due to various outbreaks of illness and that the strategy had been focusing on targeting existing donors. The HSE Service Plan anticipates a 10% reduction in red cells over the next three years and 3% reduction in platelets in 2012. This would have significant implications for collections and would mean a drop of approx 13,000 donations a year.

#### *BECS*

The tender was published before Christmas. The project team experience of dealing with the Peer Review Group has been very positive. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

#### *Electronic Ordering System*

This is on time and on schedule. Hospitals are already making suggestions for a version 2.

#### *Quality Review*

There will be presentation to the EMT on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> with the final report available on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

#### *Consolidation of testing*

The transfer of Virology to the NBC will be delayed. The CE of the SNBTS resigned before Christmas and there is an Acting CE for the moment. The CE and M&SD are meeting CUH management later this week regarding diagnostics.

#### *HR*

The CE and HRD will meet HSE management later this week regarding the redeployment of staff in Cork. The Laboratory Manager in Cork and another staff member have sought voluntary redundancy. The DOH will not progress a voluntary redundancy scheme in the IBTS until the general scheme in the public service has been implemented at the end of February, even though IBTS staff are not eligible for that scheme. However, the DOH will consider individual proposals for redundancy. The proposed redundancy agreement with the two staff members discussed was approved by the Board, proposed by Ms Marie Keane and seconded by Ms Jane O'Brien.

#### *Blood mobile*

The Welsh Blood Service has proposed to buy or lease the blood mobile. This will be discussed further at the Finance Committee, where it may be approved subject to a satisfactory arrangement.

#### *Legal Case*

The CE briefed the Board on a legal case.

#### *Revised Budget 2012*

The Chair of the Finance Committee recommended approval of the revised budget for 2012. This was proposed by Ms Ann Horan and seconded by Ms Marie Keane.

#### **4. Pension Scheme**

The CE briefed the Board on the pension scheme. A number of amendments to the draft letter were proposed and agreed. The letter was approved by the Board.

#### **5. Minutes of the MAC on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The minutes were taken as read. Key issues for discussion were vCJD and prion filtration, therapeutic apheresis, donor selection on haemoglobin and the IMB requirements. It was also noted that the clinical risk register needed to be revisited and this was discussed at the MAC today. It will be a substantive item for the MAC meeting in February.

#### **7. Draft letter to the Minister**

The draft letter to the Minister regarding prion filtration was discussed. It was agreed with minor amendments.

#### **6. Presentation on cost saving measures**

The EMT joined the meeting for the presentation on cost saving measures. The Chairperson thanked the EMT for the detailed and informative presentation. The strategic direction and next steps being proposed were approved by the Board, proposed by Mr David Lowe and seconded by Mr Sean Wyse.

#### **7. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Board will take place on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_