**IBTS launches 2022 Annual Report - blood usage up by 2.1% in 2022**

The IBTS today (Thursday 7th September) published its 2022 Annual Report. “Blood usage continued to increase in 2022, reflecting an increase in hospital activity as the impact of COVID-19 on the health service receded” said IBTS Chief Executive, Orla O’Brien

“Recruitment of new donors stalled during the pandemic and significant effort is being put in to recruit an additional 15,000 new donors in 2023. One of the more significant achievements in 2022 was the introduction of the Individual Donor Risk Assessment (IDRA) in November, a change that brings more inclusive blood donation policies for our donors.

“In December, the Department of Health announced the IBTS plan for the redevelopment of the Munster Regional Transfusion Centre on the grounds of St Finbarr’s Hospital in Cork and we look forward to progressing this project with the Department and our stakeholders over the coming years,” she added.

Dr Tor Hervig, Medical & Scientific Director added that work to reintroduce Irish plasma for transfusion continued during 2022. “In agreement with the plasma users, it has been decided that plasma from Irish donors will be made available for clinical use, including fractionation to produce plasma derived medicines.

“The IBTS held its first international conference ‘BloodHIT’ in November which was a huge success and IBTS research activities in partnership with HealthCare and Higher Education Institutions continue to grow.

**ENDS**

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**Facts at a glance**

* 55% of all blood donors were male
* 74,163 donors gave 124,501 blood donations in 2022
* 2,441 donors joined the Irish Unrelated Bone Marrow Registry in 2022