**IBTS Annual Report – over 11,000 new donors gave blood in 2023**

IBTS published its 2023 Annual Report today (Tuesday).  IBTS Chief Executive Orla O’Brien welcomed the 11,000 new donors who gave blood for the first time in 2023, while reiterating the call for an additional 15,000 new donors in 2024.  “The donor base has grown from 74,163 donors in 2022 to 75,372 in 2023, however we still need to focus on growing the donor base.  The introduction of the donor portal, allowing regular donors to book and manage their own donation appointments was a significant milestone for us and by the year end over 33,000 donors had registered with us online.

“The introduction of malaria testing in May was also a significant development for the IBTS as it will help to increase the donor pool by inviting people from malarial regions become blood donors.

“Dr Tor Hervig, Medical & Scientific Director recently retired from  the IBTS and I want to welcome Dr Andrew Godfrey as Medical & Scientific Director who brings a wealth of experience to the IBTS,” added Ms O’Brien.

Dr Godfrey noted that 2023 was the first full year of implementation of Individual Donor Risk Assessment (IDRA). “This makes blood donation more inclusive. However, patient safety is always the priority. The impact of IDRA is monitored closely and it creates no increased risk to patient safety. During 2023, there was a slight increase in donors testing positive for syphilis, but there is no indication that this is related to IDRA.

“The reintroduction of Irish plasma for transfusion is a multiyear project which will come to fruition in 2024.  This is an important project for the IBTS and I have joined the organisation at an exciting time,” said Dr Godfrey, IBTS Medical & Scientific Director.

ENDS

Note to editor

IBTS 2023 statistics at a glance

75,372 donors gave 124,848 donations

44.9% were female 55.1% male

22,665 units of platelets were issued which is a drop of 4.3% on the previous year

2,385 new donors joined the bone marrow registry bring the total panel of volunteers on the registry to 27,895