



Blood and Transplant

NHSBT Public Board Meeting

06 June 2024

Chief Executive's Report

Status: Official

Please note: This NHS Blood and Transplant Board meeting falls within the election period, so purdah restrictions apply and this report is shorter than usual.

The Infected Blood Inquiry Report was released on the 20 May 2024. The report is about the many thousands of people whose lives have been cut short, spent in illness or affected by infected blood. As part of our evidence to the Inquiry, we apologised unreservedly for any respect in which the blood services of the past, or the blood they supplied, was the cause of suffering to any person. We are sorry for the delay in introducing hepatitis C screening and the delay to beginning the hepatitis C virus look back to find people who had been infected. We are sorry for not introducing better donor screening for HIV and that blood services continued to collect blood from prisoners until 1984. I reiterated this apology on the day the report was launched.

In NHS Blood and Transplant, the safety of donors and patients is paramount and the UK now has one of the safest blood services in the world. My focus has been on providing reassurance to donors and patients about the safety of the blood supply now and providing support to our teams. We have established an Implementation Group, led by our Chief Nursing Officer, to review the report findings. We will be identifying where the recommendations could drive improvements to the blood supply and any principles that should be applied to our other services.

Author: Dr Jo Farrar Chief Executive

Date: 28 May 2024