



Department of Health & Social Care

DHSC Update to NHSBT Public Board, 3 February 2026

DHSC transformation

- We are now 3 months into having a Joint NHSE/DHSC Executive Team. Work most directly linked to NHSBT sits within the Medical Directorate, currently led by Professor Meghana Pandit on an interim basis alongside Dr Claire Fuller (who is focusing on primary care work). Meghana was previously CEO Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The advert for a permanent DG role is live until 9 February - [Medical Director - Civil Service Jobs - GOV.UK](#)

Intro meeting NHSBT/ZA

- We had a very productive introductory meeting between NHSBT (Chair, CEO, Director of Blood Supply and Plasma; CMO) and Minister Ahmed, who has responsibility for blood and organ donation as well as oversight of NHSBT, before Christmas. This gave us a clear direction of travel for priority areas to build on, as well as an offer of support to make links across Government to help build resilience.

Senior visits to NHSBT sites

It is great that DHSC leaders have had the opportunity to see the work of NHSBT first hand in recent weeks. Thank you to NHSBT Public Affairs colleagues for making their asks a reality.

- Shortly after his initial meeting with NHSBT leaders, Minister Ahmed visited NHSBT's Plymouth Grove site, meeting blood donors and donor carers and seeing the range of lab services and functions run from that site. He came away very inspired and also seeing where transformation work will have a real impact for staff, donors and the patients that NHSBT exists to serve.
- The DHSC Permanent Secretary, Sam Jones, is planning a visit to the Brixton Blood Donor Centre on 12 February.

ISOU – final reports/action owner letters

- The final ISOU meeting took place in November. We will be submitting the final reports on the digital workshop and the closure report to Minister Ahmed in February and he will be writing to all ongoing action owners to highlight the importance of securing the legacy of ISOU's work to increase the number of high-quality organs available for transplant.