

**URGENT COMMUNICATION**

**Date: 15 June 2017**

**To: All Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Consultant Haematologist's, Chairs of HTC's and Chairs of RTC's in hospitals served by NHSBT Leeds and Sheffield**

Dear Colleagues

**Leeds/Sheffield Estate Review**

On the 25 May, our Board approved the proposal to create a single new centre, located between the two current centres in Leeds and Sheffield. The new centre will be at Capitol Park, Junction 37, Barnsley. This decision confirms the closure of the Leeds and Sheffield sites in 2020, and is part of NHSBT's Blood 2020 strategy for England.

The Board made the decision to progress on the basis that the changes represent a compelling investment in our estate without impacting the supply of our components and services to hospitals. The move will lead to improved services and save money for the NHS. The security, safety and continuity of our services remains our top priority when making any changes.

Our aim is to invest for the long-term, so that we can respond to the reduced demand for blood, make the best use of every donation, and ensure flexibility to respond quickly to changes in volume and component specification.

The new site presents an opportunity to do our life saving work from fit for purpose facilities and will allow us to expand our services in support of hospitals in the region.

The new centre will accommodate the Stock Holding Unit, transport teams and the specialist services of Red Cell Immunohaematology, Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics and Cellular and Molecular Therapies. We are committed to an ongoing programme of investment, expansion and improvement in specialist services. The centre will include training facilities and a lecture theatre for wider NHS use.

We have involved our hospital customers throughout the development of this proposal and will continue to work closely to ensure a smooth transition to the new centre.

Yours sincerely



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