

Annex B: Press Release

New Chair and members of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) announced

The Department of Health today, 17 December 2007, announces the appointment of a Chair and 18 Members to the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs.

This announcement is made on behalf of all the UK Health Ministers.

The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs has been independently established by the Appointments Commission, as an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice. This UK-wide Committee will provide the Ministers with independent expert advice on issues of safety relating to blood, tissues, cells and organs. In addition, it will also provide advice to the UK blood and transplant services.

The Appointments Commission on behalf of UK Ministers appointed Mr John Forsythe, a highly respected consultant Transplant Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, as Chair of the new Committee on 30th October 2007. The appointments of Members of the Committee will be made effective from 1st December 2007 for a period of up to four years. These posts are not remunerated.

Mr Forsythe said "I welcome this opportunity to work with so many eminent colleagues in order to secure the best scientific technical and operational advice on the safety of blood, tissues and organs. The independent advice which we give will enable departments, blood services and transplant professionals to manage the risks in this important area and continue to provide a first class service to the NHS and the public. Communicating our findings to the public, to donors and to health professionals, throughout the UK, will be one of our key priorities."

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All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public. None have been declared.

The Committee will hold its inaugural meeting on the 23rd January 2008.

The post of a health economist has been readvertised and we aim to have an appointee in time of the first meeting. The structure of the Committee is as follows:

[Details of posts as listed at Annex A]