



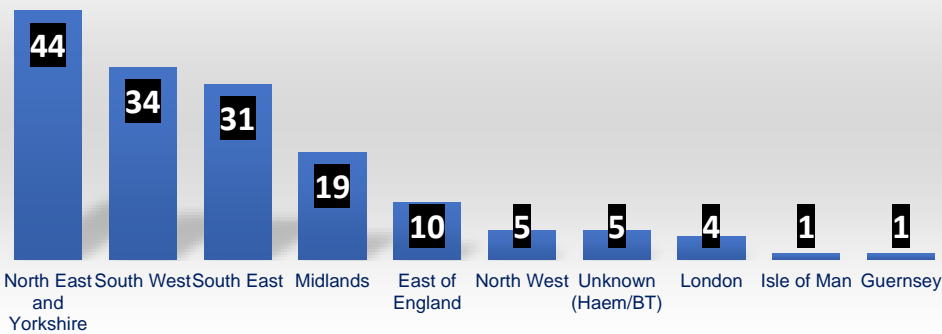
Project S1 Summary – Understanding the transfusion knowledge gaps in our hospital laboratories

NHSBT Transfusion Education and Training

Back in October 2023, the Transfusion 2024 (T24) team asked hospital laboratory staff in England to complete a short survey as part of their 'Transfusion laboratory safety' initiative, cited within the Transfusion 2024 5-year plan for clinical and laboratory transfusion. The survey was designed to identify knowledge gaps within the workforce, provide support and resources where appropriate and to ultimately enhance patient care. We asked that all staff working within Blood Transfusion as part of their job role should be included. Out of a possible 241 hospitals, 64 responded (27%). Although this was not the response we'd hoped for, we received 158 responses in total from various grades of staff who provided a valuable insight into the current knowledge gaps and barriers for transfusion education. Please find a summary of the findings and next steps.

Survey responses per region

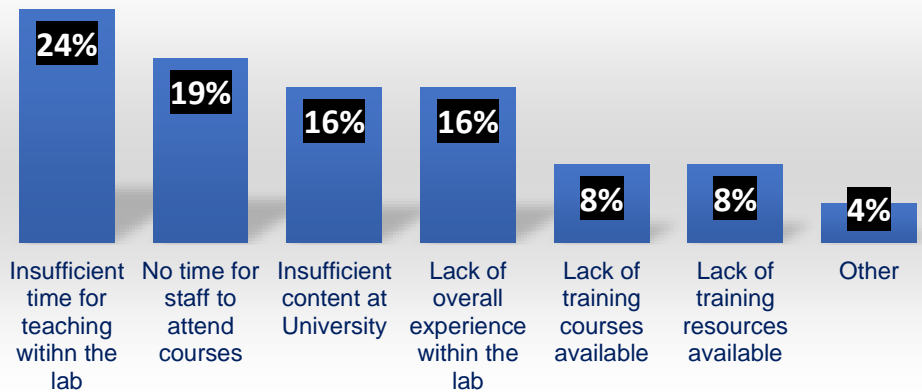
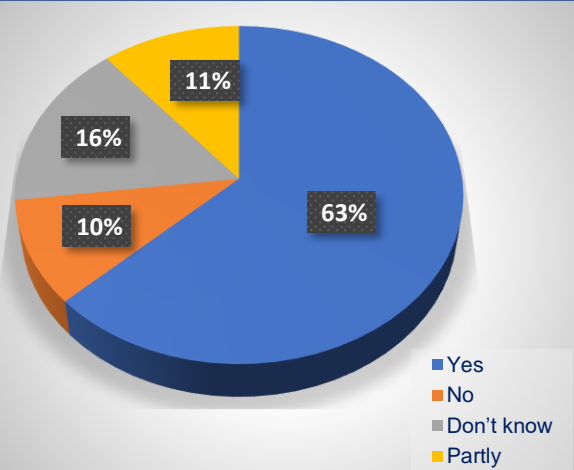
Respondents job titles (%)



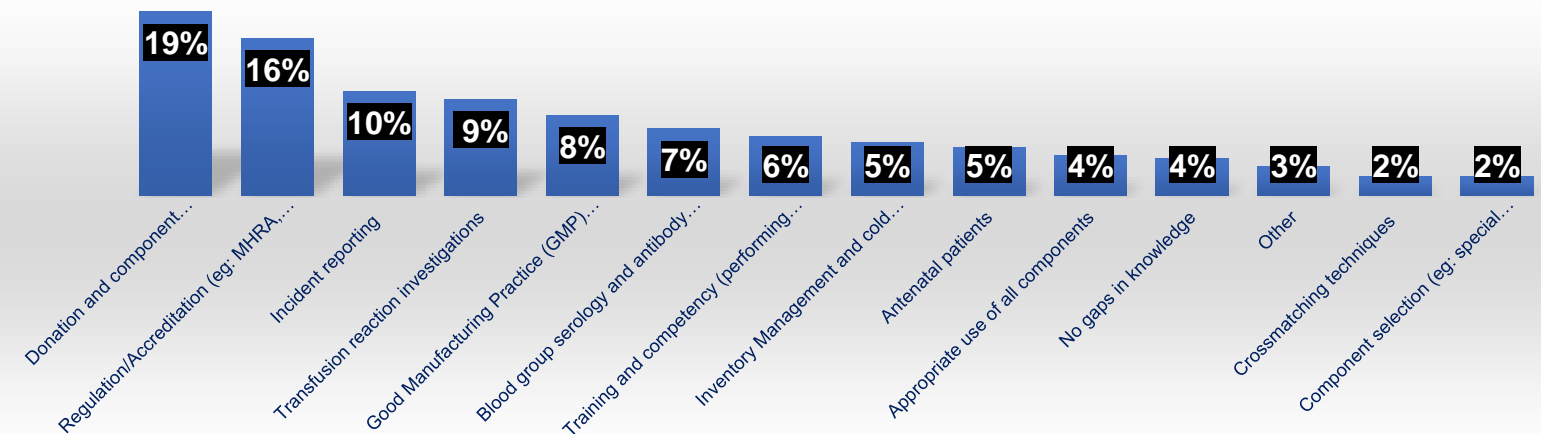
- Band 4/trainee/student - **6%**
- Band 5 Biomedical Scientist - **13%**
- Band 6 Biomedical Scientist - **39%**
- Senior BMS/Section lead - **20%**
- Transfusion lab managers - **10%**
- Transfusion Practitioner - **6%**
- 'Other' job titles - **6%** (included quality managers, support workers and associate transfusion practitioner)

Do you feel that there are Transfusion knowledge gaps within your department? **63% said Yes**

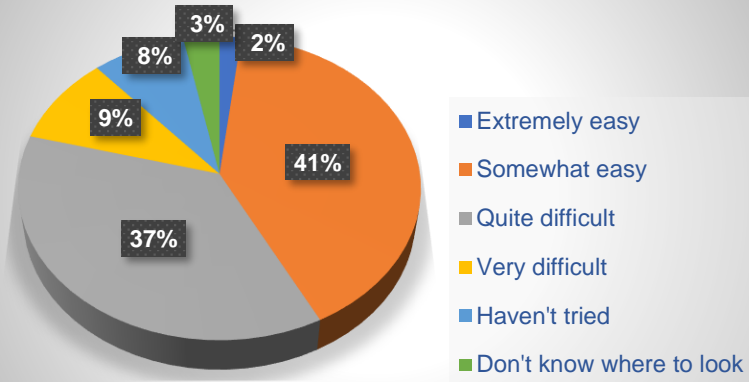
In your opinion, what do you think contributes to Transfusion knowledge gaps? **Majority selected insufficient time for training**



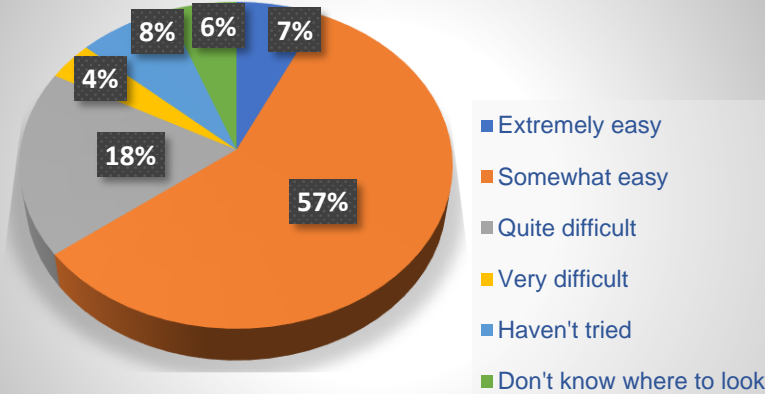
What are your knowledge gaps? **Majority selected donation and component use, followed by regulation and governance, incident reporting and transfusion reaction investigations**



How easy is it to access/attend Transfusion training eg: courses, events, webinars etc? **37% found it difficult**

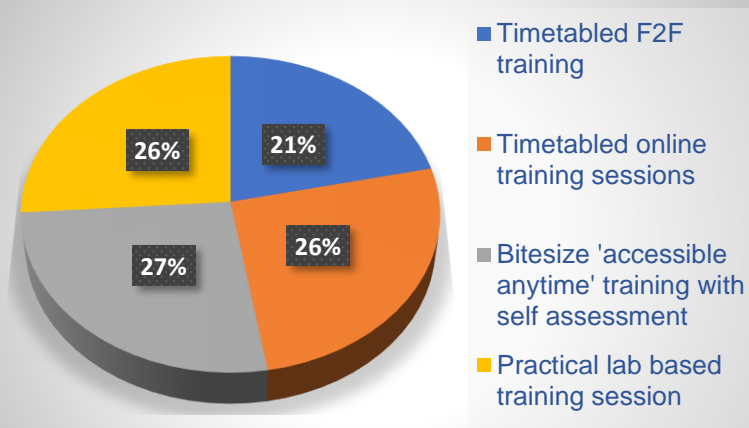


How easy is it to access Transfusion education resources eg: journals, online resources, information leaflets etc? **36% found it difficult, hadn't looked or didn't know where to look**

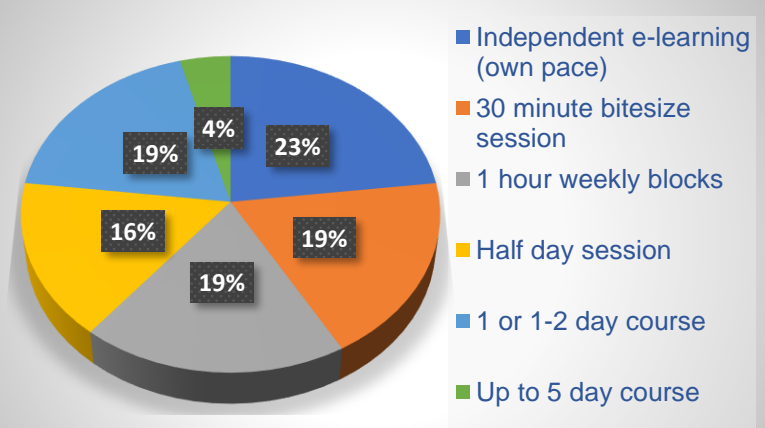


With regards to ease of attending training courses and events as well as accessing transfusion resources, most found them somewhat easy, however the next largest group found it quite difficult. This could be for various reasons including funding, Trust culture or the number of staff currently training..

How would you prefer to access training?



What length of training would you prefer to be available?



Preferable access to training was evenly split between the 4 options. Preferred length of training was independent e-learning (23%) followed closely by 30 minute bitesize (19%). 1-2-day courses and 1-hour blocks were the next options and the least preferable was the 'up to 5-day course (4%).'.

Comments provided

- 'One dedicated website for all transfusion resource education/ links would be helpful'
- 'Provide shorter length training, or training that is independent and can be accessible at your own pace.'
- 'Videos or access anytime training would be fantastic'
- 'NHSBT courses I have attended/ sent staff to are very good - would utilise more if they were available'
- 'Poor knowledge/experience from universities'

Transfusion 2024 actions from the survey



Focus on the availability, delivery and content of existing NHSBT courses and offerings to reflect demand.



T24 project focusing on the inclusion and improvement of transfusion content in undergraduate degree courses.

A dedicated webpage with links to various transfusion resources. Welcome the new **Transfusion Training Hub** accessible to all <https://nationalbloodtransfusion.co.uk/transfusion-training-hub>

