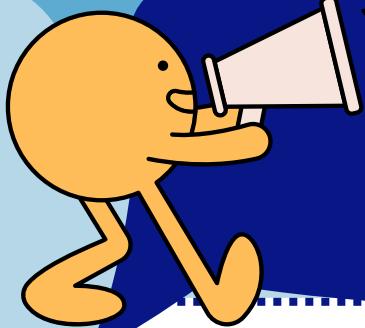


UK NEQAS BTLP



2026/27
EDITION

YOUR ANNUAL RE-REGISTRATION NEWSLETTER

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN...

Re-registration will be opening in late February!

A quick check-in now ensures your EQA services continue without interruption and that your invoice is accurate. From the same page, main contacts can register for all relevant BTLP programmes, including TACT and our annual meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

DURING 2025, BTLP SENT OUT APPROXIMATELY 60,000 SAMPLES ACROSS ALL EXERCISES!



PRICE CHANGES

Programme prices for 2026/27 have increased by approximately 5% for most schemes, reflecting inflationary costs.

REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Your online account lets you manage contacts easily. You can add, update, or deactivate contacts as needed.

Please make sure you have:
One main contact (used for sample delivery — the address must match your delivery address)
One invoice contact
A consultant contact (required for UK clinical laboratories)

You can also add:
Trial contacts (notified when samples are despatched)
Report contacts (notified when reports are issued)

Don't forget to deactivate contacts who have left your organisation, as they may still have access to data and reports!

Changes to the main contact/delivery address will apply from the first distribution of the 2026/27 schedule.

All other contact updates take effect immediately.

UK laboratories:

Please note that deregistration from full (scored) programmes requires contacting us first.



HELLO

SEROLOGICAL CROSMATCHING COMING TO TACT!

The aim of our Training Assessment and Competency Tool (TACT) is to provide interactive training for the monitoring of the theoretical knowledge of Biomedical Scientists working in blood transfusion laboratories.

Currently, TACT features a single scenario based on routine transfusion requests. There are plans to expand upon this system to bring you a second scenario type, alongside serological crossmatching!

If you are interested, fees for TACT membership can be added during the re-registration process!

MEET THE BTLP TEAM!



Director:
Richard Haggas

Operations Manager:
Katy Veale

Quality Manager and Senior
EQA Scientist:
Claire Whitham

Extended Phenotyping Lead
Scientist:
Dipika Shah

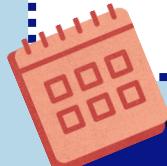
EQA Scientist:
Meg Jenkins

Associate Practitioner:
Hannah Ellicott

ANNUAL MEETING 2025 – STORIES, STUDIES, AND SAFE TRANSFUSION

Tuesday 25th November 2025 saw the annual UK NEQAS BTLP and BBTS Blood Bank Technology SIG meeting at The Birmingham Conference & Events Centre. It was wonderful to see so many of you on the day, the theme of which was 'Stories, Studies, and Safe Transfusion'. It was exciting and informative, showcasing a range of talks on topics such as the Infected Blood Inquiry, trauma and major haemorrhage, serological case studies, and detection of D variants. The patient experience talk was a definite highlight, with our speaker delivering an insightful presentation about living with Diamond Black Fan Anaemia.

Thank you to all that attended, we hope to see you again this year!



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please join us this year for the next annual meeting on 24th November 2026 at the BCEC.

Remember there will be an opportunity to pre-book places for this meeting during the re-registration process in March.

We hope to see you there!



As of 2025, we are ISO/IEC 17043:2023 accredited.
This is for our PTT, FMH, ABOT, DAT, and ERP programmes.



SCHEMES UPDATE

Extended Red Cell Phenotyping (ERP) is now a fully accredited programme!

Red Cell Genotyping (RCG) and Antenatal Antibody Titration (ANT) remain pilot programmes, with the intention of these becoming fully accredited programmes by the 2027/28 re-registration period.

A pre-pilot for a RHD-genotyping scheme is in the works!

BTLP GOES PAPERLESS!

In an effort to become more sustainable, we stopped issuing paper instructions for all routine exercises in Spring of 2025. COSHH sheets will still always be provided with samples, and the exercise instructions can be accessed via the website or via the link included in the emails sent when an exercise is opened. There may be times when a non-routine exercise is distributed with instructions that differ from the norm. In these cases, paper instructions will be provided to ensure all participants are clear on what is expected. We appreciate that some participants may still wish to print the exercise instructions for their own use, but we are committed to reducing our environmental impact.

The exercise instruction link will always be:
<https://www.ukneqas.org/downloads/xxxxxxInstructions.pdf>
(where **xxxxxx** is replaced by the relevant exercise code).

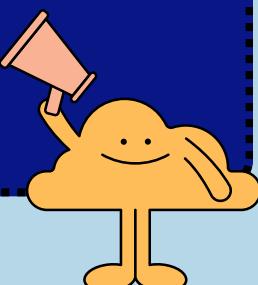
Thank you for your understanding during this big change!

NQAAP: UKNEQAS POSITION STATEMENT

UK NEQAS regrets the pause in activity of the QAPC and NQAAP oversight of laboratory performance from January 1st, 2026, as notified by the RCPATH, IBMS and LabMed. UK NEQAS supports the need for an independent system of review of both laboratory and method-related performance within the UK.

UK NEQAS centres will continue to manage performance concerns internally after January 1st 2026. In the case of persistent unsatisfactory or poor performance of either testing sites or methods, UK NEQAS Organisers will continue to work with the support of the Schemes' Steering Committees, other EQA providers, commercial companies and/or the MHRA, as required, to resolve the concern in the interest of patient safety. If you have any queries or comments, you should contact the relevant Scheme Organiser using your usual contact or using the contact details on the UK NEQAS website.

Barbara De la Salle
President, UK NEQAS



UK NEQAS BTLP SCORES 8.6/10

2025 PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our 2025 Participant Satisfaction Survey, we received 288 responses! As part of the survey, participants were asked to rate the overall service we provide out of 10. The average of all the responses show that we scored an 8.6/10!

This is the first year that we have followed a standard questionnaire format in line with all other UK NEQAS centres, which will allow us to compare our results.

Overall, we are very pleased with the comments we have received in this survey, and are working through specific feedback in order to improve your experience of using our service.

GETTING AN UPGRADE!

Work is underway on the new UK NEQAS BTLP website! The page is getting a much-needed upgrade, with plans for a go-live date currently sitting around the 2027/28 re-registration period.

A huge thank you from the BTLP Team, we look forward to another year of learning! We really value your continued participation. If you need any help with re-registration or have questions about our services, our Administration Team is happy to help:

+44 (0)1923 587 111

btlpadmin@ukneqas.org.uk

PACKAGING UPDATE

Some of you may have noticed a small QR code on the clamshells that your samples arrive in.

If scanned, this will lead to an electronic version of the COSHH document that's included in your package. This is a safety precaution just in case the documentation and the clamshell become separated whilst in transit!

Furthermore, in a continuation of our efforts to become more sustainable, all of our postage bags are now made from sugarcane!

UNIFIED LOGINS

From April 2026, our website will utilise unified logins, which means you only need to log in to our main website once to allow you to access reports and data entry for all of our programmes, including PTT and FMH.

You will be able to login with either an email address and password, or by using a PRN, WebID and password. Please note that the same password will not automatically work for both.

The 'blue screen' login used for accessing PTT and FMH will still continue to work, but using the single login on our website will make the process smoother and is the way we plan for our new website to work.

