



## Media statement

### David Bennett appointed as new Chair of Viapath

**London, UK, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Dr David Bennett, former head of NHS Foundation Trust regulator Monitor, has been appointed as the new Chair of Viapath, the pathology joint venture owned by Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and Serco.

Since its inception in 2009, Viapath has been a leading UK provider of pathology services to the NHS and private healthcare market. It employs 1,300 scientists and other employees and provides one of the widest test repertoires in the NHS, including world-renowned specialist laboratories at the leading edge of innovation supporting cancer care, genomics and transplant medicine. Each year the business earns revenues of £100 million, undertakes 25 million tests and reinvests around £7 million in growth, modernisation and innovation.

David has a doctorate in Nuclear Physics from Oxford University and was a research scientist at Shell before spending eighteen years at McKinsey & Co. Prior to his appointment as Chair and CEO at Monitor, he was Head of the Downing Street Policy Unit under Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Welcoming David Bennett's appointment, Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust said: *"Guy's and St Thomas' was instrumental in the creation of Viapath and the joint venture is central to our vision to deliver high quality pathology services and diagnostics to our patients. David's appointment will support this vision and I am confident that his commitment and experience will help us to realise this ambition."*

Nick Moberly, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust CEO, and Viapath Board Member, said: *"We are delighted to welcome David to Viapath at an exciting time for the organisation. His clear grasp of the practical and policy challenges faced by the NHS will be crucial as it seeks to harness innovations in medical science for the benefit of patients. His experience will benefit Viapath and its plans for the future –I look forward to working with him."*

Alan Dingwall, Serco's interim Managing Director for Health, added: *"Viapath demonstrates our ability to work in partnership with the NHS to transform services for the benefit of patients and clinicians. We are excited about the future and believe David's considerable experience will help us to expand the delivery of high quality, value for money services at a time when it has never been more important for our customers."*

Viapath CEO, Richard Jones said: *"I am delighted that David has agreed to lead our board as he brings all the insights and capability needed to support Viapath's strategic drive for innovation and growth."*

David Bennett said: *"Viapath has shown that it is possible to bring together the very best innovations in science of our leading NHS teaching hospitals, with commercial leadership and delivery capability from the private sector. Viapath has a great opportunity to grow in partnership with the NHS for the benefit of patients, taxpayers and shareholders alike."*

## **ENDS**

### **Editors' Notes**

1. Viapath Group LLP is a public-private partnership, majority-owned by its NHS shareholders. Its three equal shareholders are Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Serco.
2. Viapath is a scientific organisation with a clinical purpose. It exists to deliver first class diagnostic services to patients and the clinical teams who support them. Our mission is to transform pathology by introducing new innovative technology and better processes that drive up quality and efficiency for our NHS partners. Our values are **innovation**, **expertise** and **collaboration**.
3. Pathology is vital to health care as nearly all health care decisions affecting diagnosis or treatment involve a pathology investigation. Viapath provides pathology services to over 400 NHS trusts, GP practices and private health clinics. With 1,300 employees processing 25 million tests each year, the work of Viapath touches thousands of patients' lives every day.
4. Viapath's last published financial results for 2014 showed revenues of £97 million and operating profit before restructuring costs of £5.6 million.
5. David Bennett was appointed by the three Viapath shareholders following an extensive search process. His appointment is as a part-time non-executive independent director and Chair of the Viapath Group Board, for a three year term. He succeeds Christopher Baker MBE as Chair who stepped down in December 2015.

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