

# Transcript

Adrian corporate.mov

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START AUDIO

Adrian McNeil:       My name is Adrian McNeil; I'm the Chief Executive of the Human Tissue Authority. I'm very pleased indeed to be able to launch this fifth of our Annual Reviews for 2009/10.

It may be helpful if you understand that we regulate human tissue for certain purposes like research, anatomical examination for teaching and for public display. And we also regulate all living organ donations for example kidneys and livers.

This unquestionably has been a challenging year for us and we've had to keep pace with the economic environment, I'm thinking here about charging licence fees to public and private establishments. We've also had to keep pace with some rapid developments in medicine and stem cell research.

I think it's fair to say that we have continued to build on our reputation as an engaging and risk based and proportionate regulator. We've continued for example to apply our philosophy of securing compliance by advice and guidance rather than through enforcement and a good example of this is that we reviewed in the last year no fewer than seven of our Codes of Practice, each of which involved a major revision to the original Codes. And we also introduced an entirely new Code of Practice on storage of human

tissue for research.

We've also focussed on patient safety in the last year and this is linked to the regulation that we have to apply. We've focussed particularly on the taking of umbilical cord blood because this is a topical area that is increasingly used and where if not done properly can result in some mishap.

Another area that we've also risen to the challenge over is in our working with our regulators. We are intensely aware that we as a regulator should not either overlap or duplicate what other regulators are doing. And certainly even where we don't, where we join forces with those other regulators to keep the burden of regulation as low as it can be for those who are being regulated. So for example in the last year we engaged with the MHRA, with the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Products Agency on a joint inspection which was extremely successful and which we're going to carry forward into the next year and beyond.

I'm very pleased to say indeed that the HTA was reviewed by an external body called The Hampton Review Team which was commissioned by The Better Regulation Executive in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and they praised us for our minimalist approach to regulation, our risk based approach and the way in which we engaged our stakeholders.

And finally I'd just like to say that I shall be stepping down after five years as the Chief Executive. The new Chief Executive will take my place alongside Diana Warwick, the Chair and I'm sure that they will continue to build on the good work that this regulatory authority has done since its establishment in 2005.

END AUDIO