

## NHSBT Report for SDTG - December 2020

As the UK is now within the COVID-19 second wave NHSBT has been focusing its efforts upon maintaining the organ donation service, offering the option of donation to families where that is possible and supporting the safe transplantation of patients. In order to maintain the service a decision was taken to retain OTDT colleagues in their substantive roles rather than facilitating their voluntary release into ITU's/Trust services as in the first wave. Collaborative working with Transplant Units and Commissioners continues to ensure patients on the transplant waiting list have the best possible chance of receiving the transplant they need, saving lives and slowing the increase in waiting list numbers caused by the interruption to donation and transplantation seen in the first wave. During this second wave all transplant centres have remained open with a few pausing operations whilst they deal with nosocomial outbreaks.

UK donation rates are remaining stable, albeit at a lower rate than in a comparison with pre-COVID performance. During October there were 107 deceased donors (62 DBD (58%) and 45 DCD (42%)), equating to 694 deceased donors YTD (460 DBD (66%) and 234 DCD (34%)). In the rolling 12-month period from November 2019 to October 2020 there were 1351 deceased donors, resulting in 20.3 deceased donors per million population.

November saw the 6-month anniversary of the introduction of Opt Out legislation in England. This generated significant media coverage, mostly centred upon donor and recipient real-life stories highlighting the impact donation has upon the lives of all those touched by it. Our data shows that up until 31 October 2020, 135 people had donated their organs under deemed consent, as they had not expressed an organ donation decision during their lifetime. Pre-legislation change in England the consent rate for those not on the ODR/no known decision was around 50%. Now deemed consent is part of the decision-making process, the consent rate is 71%.

The UK wide Organ Donation and Transplantation Strategy received final support from the NHSBT Board on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The strategy is the result of nearly 2 years of formal engagement and consultation with over 700 stakeholders across the UK. It sets the strategic vision for Organ Donation and Transplantation for the next decade. Discussions will now take place with all UK national governments regarding how to proceed to seek formal approval from Ministers for Health prior to a launch on a date/format to be decided in consultation.

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