

## NHS BLOOD & TRANSPLANT

### RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP

#### RESEARCH CONSENT RATES FROM ACTUAL DONORS

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 This paper summarises how research consent/authorisation rates for organs from actual donors have changed over the last ten years in the UK.

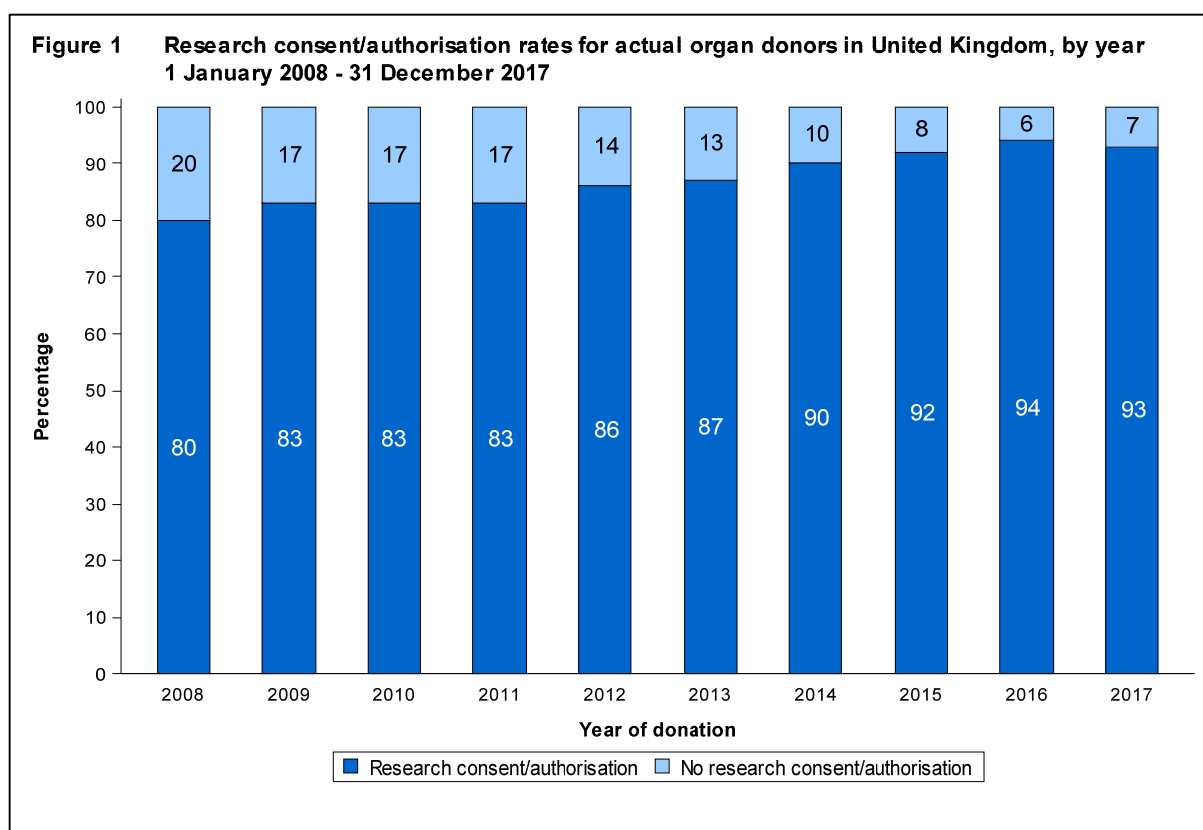
#### DATA AND METHODS

- 2 Research consent/authorisation rates were analysed for actual organ donors in the UK from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2017. Families give generic consent/authorisation for research use of any organs that are found to be unsuitable for transplantation.

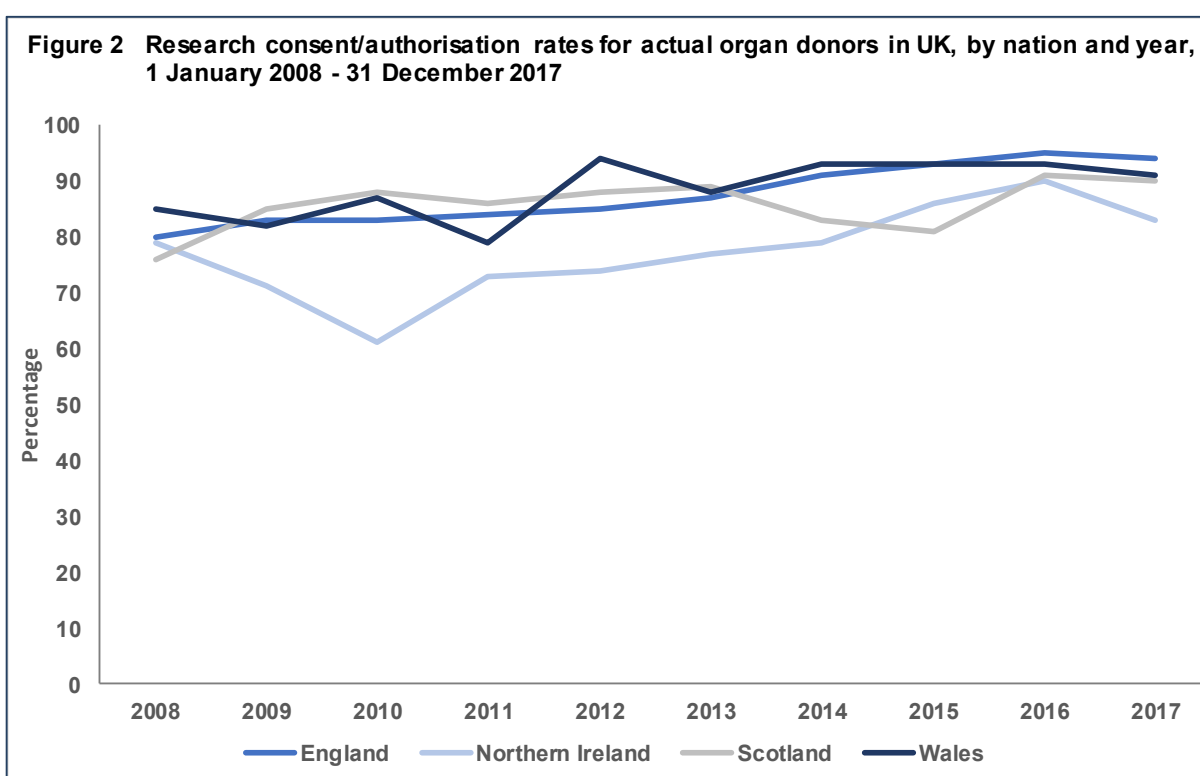
#### RESULTS

##### Research consent/authorisation rates

- 3 **Figure 1** illustrates that overall UK research consent/authorisation rates for solid organ donors have generally increased from 80% in 2008 to 93% in 2017. This shows that the large majority of donors that donate at least one solid organ also have consent/authorisation for research.

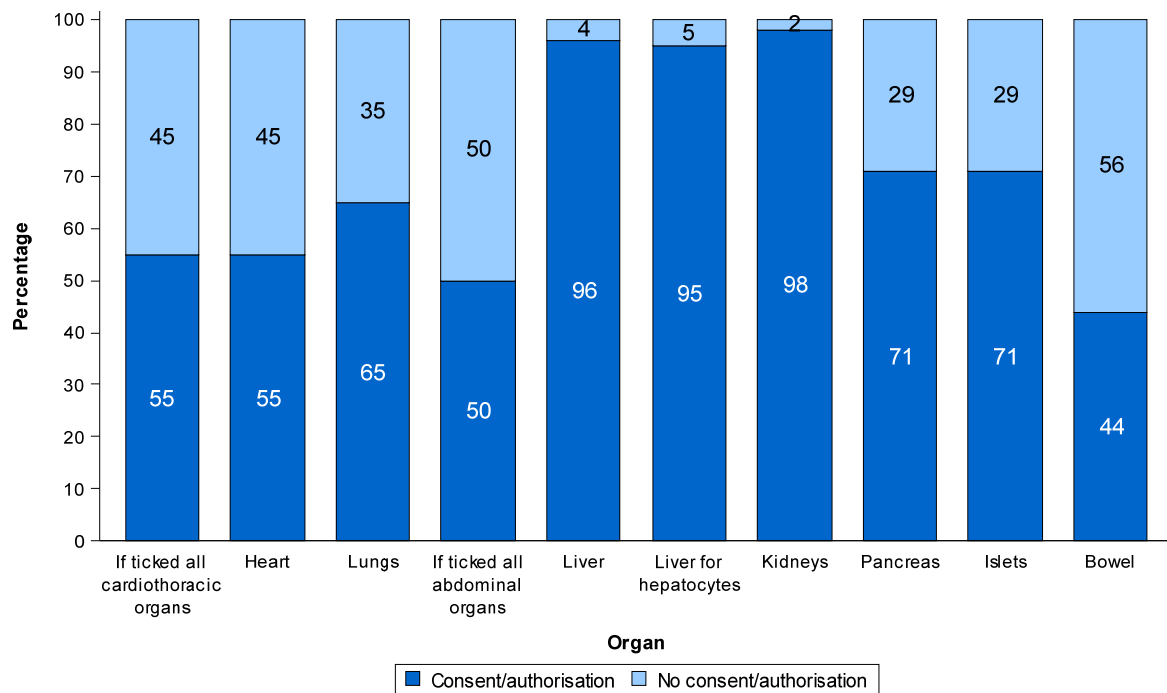


- 4 **Figure 2** breaks down research/authorisation rates for actual organ donors by nation and year. England and Wales have had the highest consent rates over the past 4 years ranging from 91% to 95%. Northern Ireland has seen an overall increase in research consent rate since 2008, although it remains lower than the rest of the UK at 83% in 2017.
- 5 The research authorisation rate for Scotland rose from 81% to 90% between 2015 and 2017. In the last couple of years, Scotland have instigated further training for SNODs and CLODS on gaining research authorisation which could account for such increase. Rates for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales fluctuate more as there are fewer donors.

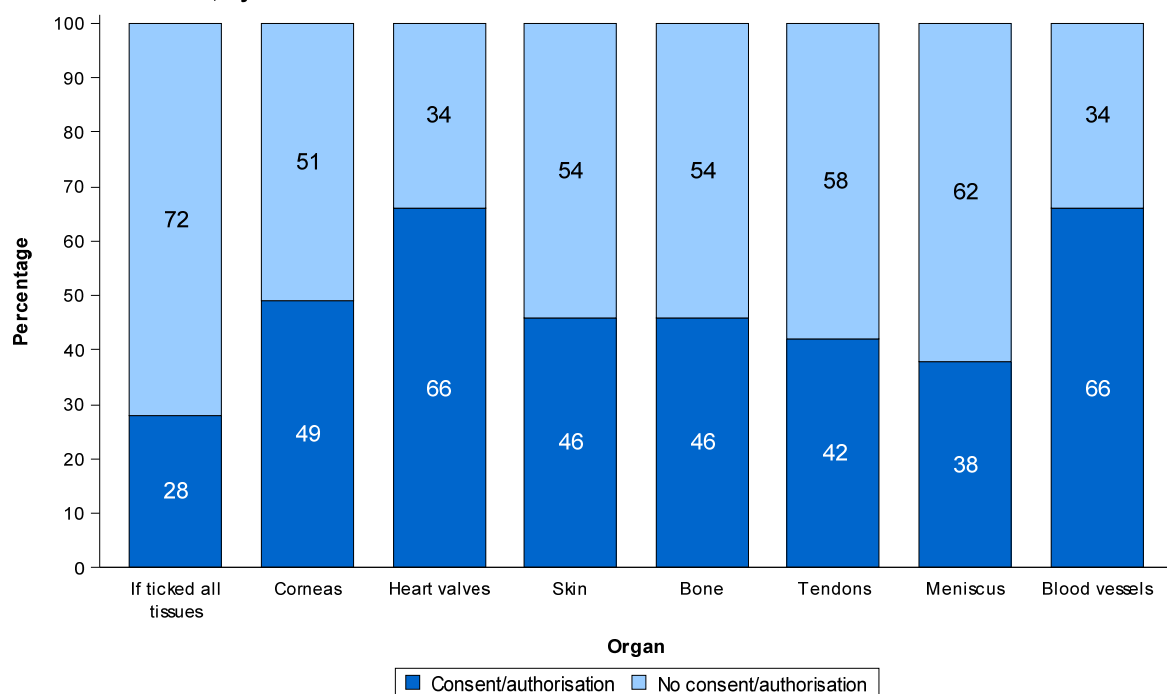


- 6 **Figures 3 and 4** shows consent/authorisation rates for **transplantation** from actual solid organ donors in 2017 broken down by organ and tissue, respectively. These organ specific consent/authorisation rates also impact the number of research organs available.
- 7 **Figure 3** shows that kidneys (98%) and liver (96%) gained the highest rates of consent/authorisation. In general, abdominal organs with the exception of bowel (44%) had higher rates of consent/authorisation than for cardiothoracic organs (55% for heart and 65% for lungs).
- 8 **Figure 4** illustrates that tissues have lower consent/authorisation rates than solid organs. Please note that this cohort excludes tissue-only donors.

**Figure 3 Consent/authorisation rates for transplantation from actual organ donors in United Kingdom in 2017, by organ**



**Figure 4 Consent/authorisation rates for transplantation from actual organ donors in United Kingdom in 2017, by tissue**



## **CONCLUSION**

- 9 The overall UK consent/authorisation rate for research was 80% in 2008 and has risen to 93% in 2017. England and Wales have had the highest consent rates for research over the past 4 years ranging from 91% to 95%. Scotland's research authorisation rate has increased from 81% in 2015 to 90% in 2017. This may be due to an increase in research consent/authorisation training undertaken by SNODs and CLODs.

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