



**UPDATE FROM THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

**1. Organ donation position - Wales**

**Three quarters (April – December) organ donation and transplantation data:**

<b>Summary Figures</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Donors after brain death (DBD)	35
Donors after circulatory death (DCD)	19
Total deceased donors	54
Living donors	21
Total patients on active list (end of period)	252
Deceased donor transplants	124
Living donor transplants	29
Total organ transplants	153
Number of people opted-in to the ODR	1,274,077
Percentage of population opted-in to the ODR	41
Number of people opted-out from the ODR	186,704
Percentage of population opted-out from ODR	6

**Key Findings:**

- At the end of the first three quarters of 2019-20, 41% (1,274,077) of the population were registered as opt-in on the Organ Donation Register (ODR). A slight decrease in numbers from 1,283,226 (41%) at the end of the first three quarters of 2018-19.
- The total number of people waiting for a transplant was 252 at the end of the first three quarters of 2019-20 compared to 232 in the first three quarters of 2018-19.
- 6% (186,704) of the population have opted out on the Organ Donation Register – a slight increase in numbers from 183,385 (6%) compared to the same period of 2018-19
- At the end of the first three quarters of 2019-20, 12 people have died whilst on the waiting list. This compares with 19 people dying in the first three quarters of 2018-19.
- By the end of the first three quarters of 2019-20, there have been 153 organ transplants – a slight decrease in numbers with 164 transplants in the same period of 2018-19.
- At the end of the first three quarters of 2019-20, there were 54 deceased organ donors, 18 less (72) than in the same period in 2018-19.
- The consent rate in quarter 3 was 81%, compared to 76% in the previous quarter, 60% in the first quarter and 77% in 2018/19.

**2. Legislation**

The Welsh Government has been working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care following its recent consultation on a set of regulations which will list those materials to be excluded from deemed consent. The Welsh Government will similarly consult on any changes which may be needed to the Human Transplantation (Excluded Relevant Material) (Wales) Regulations 2015 to ensure there is parity with the England regulations and across the organ donation system in England and Wales.

### 3. Communications and awareness

<b>Advertising</b>	A month of digital advertising, TV and radio ads will be delivered in February. Ongoing social media activity running throughout the year.
<b>PR</b>	We continue to source and develop case studies for use in campaign and media activity.  The Organ Donation Wales Facebook and Twitter channels continue to generate high levels of engagement. Recent content includes BBC nature presenter Iolo Williams and his son discussing their donation decisions, which was widely shared.
<b>BAME</b>	We continue to look for opportunities to work with BAME communities in Wales.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of legislation</b>	We took a low-key approach to communications for the anniversary, using social media posts to explain presumed consent/ opt-out and the importance of telling your family your donation decision.

### 4. Wales Transplantation Advisory Group (WTAG)

The last WTAG meeting took place on the 5 December 2019, the agenda focused on:

- All Wales organ/tissue donation performance;
- Standing updates; including from HTA, NHSBT, Welsh Renal Clinical Network, health boards and communications;
- Update on Special Requestors and post 2020 strategy;
- WTAG work programme post 2020 – Task and Finish Groups;
- Review of the Group's Terms of Reference;
- Public attitudes survey.

The next WTAG meeting on 3 March 2020 will concentrate on:

- WTAG work programme post 2020 – Task and Finish Groups;
- Draft Strategy.

### 5. Update from the Welsh Blood Service (WBS)

The WBS Chief Scientific Officer attended the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) Donor Archive Working Group on behalf of Welsh Government on 22 January 2020. This was an initial meeting to scope and examine the benefits, risks, logistics and costs of a national UK wide bank on donor material to improve the safety of solid donor organ transplantation in the UK.

The WBS are also actively involved in the Donor Characterisation Programme of work led by NHSBT. As part of the recent Donor Characterisation Review, a service specification was developed by a working group of Subject Matter Experts which included representation

from WBS that sets out the standards against which UK services will be expected to comply from 1 April 2022. Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee have been engaged throughout and WBS have initiated engagement with the Welsh Renal Clinical Network to consider and assess the potential implications to deliver the new requirements.