

# National Potential Donor Audit

## Key messages

- Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic the Potential Donor Audit is currently incomplete for March 2020, therefore 2019-2020 activity presented in this section, includes 11 months of data from 1 April 2019 – 29 February 2020. Data presented on previous financial years include 12 months of data
- There were 31,042 audited deaths reported through the Potential Donor Audit in the financial year to 29 February 2020, including 1,473 (99%) of the 1,485 deceased organ donors
- Compared with the previous financial year, small improvements have been observed in the proportion of approaches where a Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation was present (from 91% to 92%), and in the overall consent/authorisation rate (from 67% to 68%). The overall referral rate of potential donors has remained constant at 94%
- The consent/authorisation rate was 91% when a patient's opt-in decision was known at the time of potential donation, but 109 families overruled their loved one's known decision to be an organ donor
- A significant difference is still apparent in the consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities (71% and 42%, respectively)

## 13.1 Introduction

In this chapter, summary data from the National Potential Donor Audit (PDA) are shown for 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020 and data from the previous three financial years are also provided for comparison purposes. The data comprise all audited patient deaths in UK Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and emergency departments, excluding wards and patients over 80 years of age, in the time period. Paediatric ICU data are included, however, neonatal ICU data have been excluded. The data are based on information received by 11 May 2020. **The number of solid organ donors reported in this chapter will differ from that shown in the rest of the report, due to the national PDA excluding specific patients and this section only including 11 months of 2019-2020 activity.**

## 13.2 Definitions

All data shown in this chapter use the following definitions.

**Eligible donors after brain death (DBD)** are defined as patients for whom death was confirmed following neurological tests and who had no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

**Eligible donors after circulatory death (DCD)** are defined as patients who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated within four hours, with no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

**Absolute medical contraindications** to organ donation are listed here:

[https://nhsbtdeb.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/6455/contraindications\\_to\\_organ\\_donation.pdf](https://nhsbtdeb.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/6455/contraindications_to_organ_donation.pdf)

**Imminent death anticipated** patients who are not confirmed dead using neurological criteria, receiving assisted ventilation, a clinical decision to withdraw treatment has been made and death is anticipated within four hours.

**Neurological death suspected** patients who meet all of the following criteria: apnoea, coma from known aetiology and unresponsive, ventilated, fixed pupils. Excluding those not tested as cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation, brain stem reflexes returned, or neonates less than 2 months post term.

**The neurological death testing rate** is the percentage of patients for whom neurological death was suspected who were tested.

**The referral rate** is the percentage of patients for whom neurological death was suspected or imminent death was anticipated, who were discussed with the Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD).

**The proportion of approaches where a SN-OD was present** is the percentage of eligible donor families or appointed/nominated representatives approached where a SN-OD was present.

**Deemed consent** applies if a person who died in Wales or Jersey has not registered an organ donation decision either to opt-in or opt-out or appoint a representative, is aged 18 or over, has lived for longer than 12 months and is ordinarily resident, and had the capacity to understand the notion of deemed consent for a significant period before their death.

**The consent/authorisation** rate is the percentage of eligible donor families or appointed/nominated representatives approached for formal organ donation discussion where consent/authorisation was ascertained. Note that consent/authorisation rates have not been provided where the number of families approached is less than ten.

### 13.3 Breakdown of audited deaths in ICUs and emergency departments

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, only the first 11 months of 2019-2020 activity are included. In the 11-month period there were a total of 31,042 audited patient deaths in the UK.

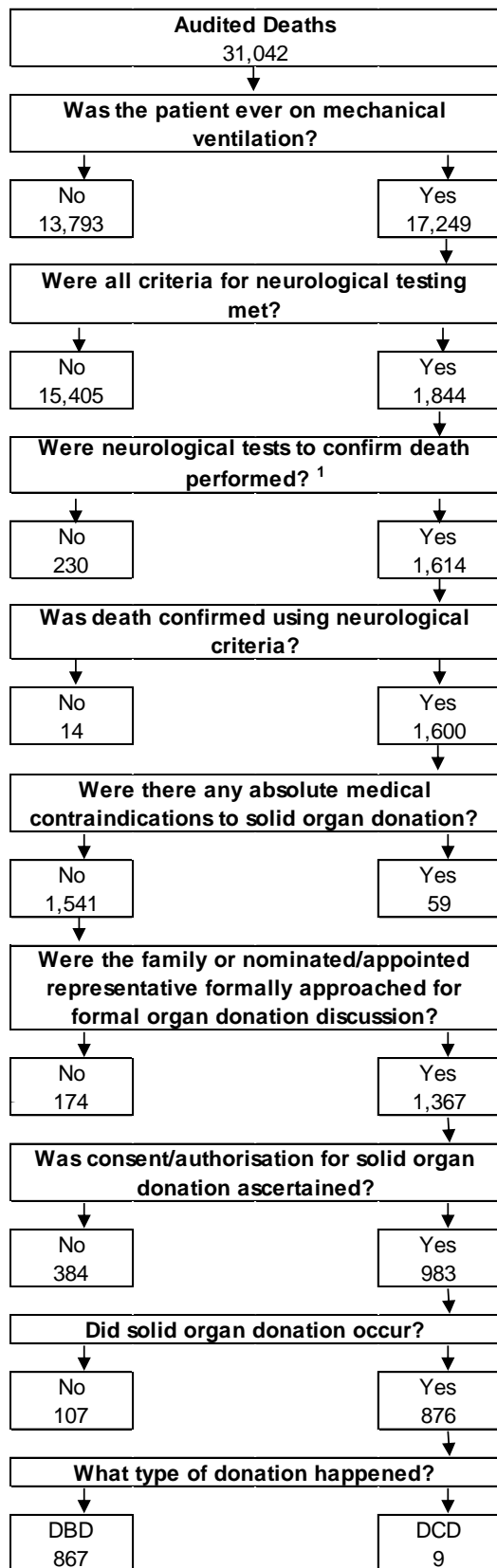
**Figures 13.1** and **13.2** show a detailed breakdown from the number of audited patient deaths to the number of solid organ donors for potential DBD and DCD donors, respectively. In total there were 1,473 solid organ donors reported through the PDA, 99% of the total 1,485 deceased solid organ donors.

**Table 13.1** shows the key percentages calculated from the flow chart information and **Table 13.2** provides a breakdown by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST). Consent/authorisation rates have also been provided, in **Table 13.1**, for cases where the SN-OD was/was not present for the approach to the family and/or whether the patient's decision to be a donor was known at the time of potential donation. Details of ODR opt-in, expressed opt-in decision and deemed consent overrides are included in the footnote of the table.

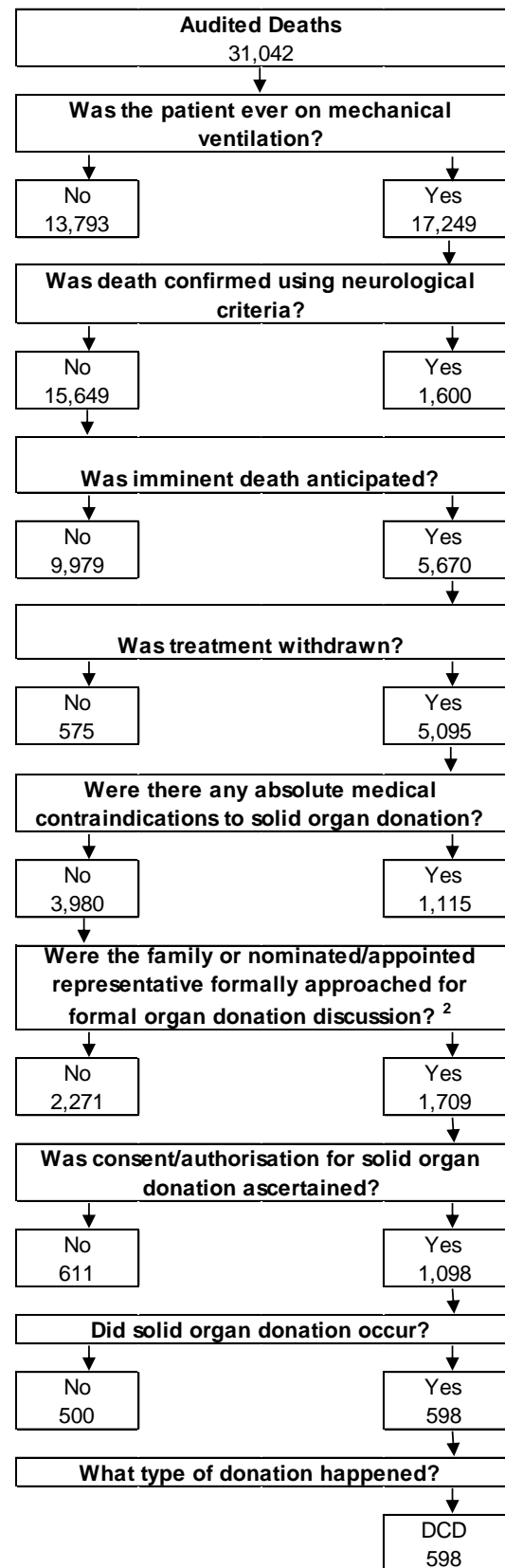
An ODR opt-in override is a case where the family overruled their loved one's decision to be an organ donor where the decision was recorded on the ODR. This decision was known at the time that the family were approached. Similarly, an opt-in decision override is a case where the family overruled their loved one's known decision to donate and includes decisions registered on the ODR, those expressed verbally, or via an appointed/nominated representative. Again, the decision was known at the time that the family were approached. A deemed consent override is a case where the family did not support deemed consent in Wales or Jersey.

**Figure 13.3** uses the flow chart information to illustrate the stages where opportunities are lost pre-donation. Current practice within DCD donation has led to a significant proportion of DCD patients dropping out of the donation process at the approach stage; this is because eligible donors are screened out due to medical unsuitability and therefore families or nominated/appointed representatives are not approached for a formal organ donation discussion.

**Figure 13.1 Donation after brain death<sup>3</sup>**



**Figure 13.2 Donation after circulatory death<sup>3</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Patients for whom tests were not performed due to; cardiac arrest despite resuscitation occurred or brainstem reflexes returned are excluded from the calculation of the neurological death testing rate

<sup>2</sup> A large number of DCD donors are not approached due to the DCD screening process which precludes them from solid organ donation

<sup>3</sup> Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2019-2020 includes 11 months of data, from 1 April 2019 - 29 February 2020

**Table 13.1 Summary of key percentages, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020**

	<b>DBD</b>	<b>DCD</b>	<b>ALL</b>
Neurological death testing rate	87.5		
Referral rate	99.1	92.3	93.9
Proportion of approaches where a SN-OD was present	96.1	89.3	92.3
Consent/authorisation rate	71.9	64.2	67.7
- SN-OD not present for approach	43.4	24.0	28.4
- SN-OD present for approach	73.1	69.1	70.9
- Opt-in decision registered on the ODR*	92.4	89.4	90.8
- Opt-in decision expressed by any method**	93.5	89.6	91.4
- Deemed consent applied***	73.9	44.0	58.3
- No known decision to donate	55.9	47.5	51.2

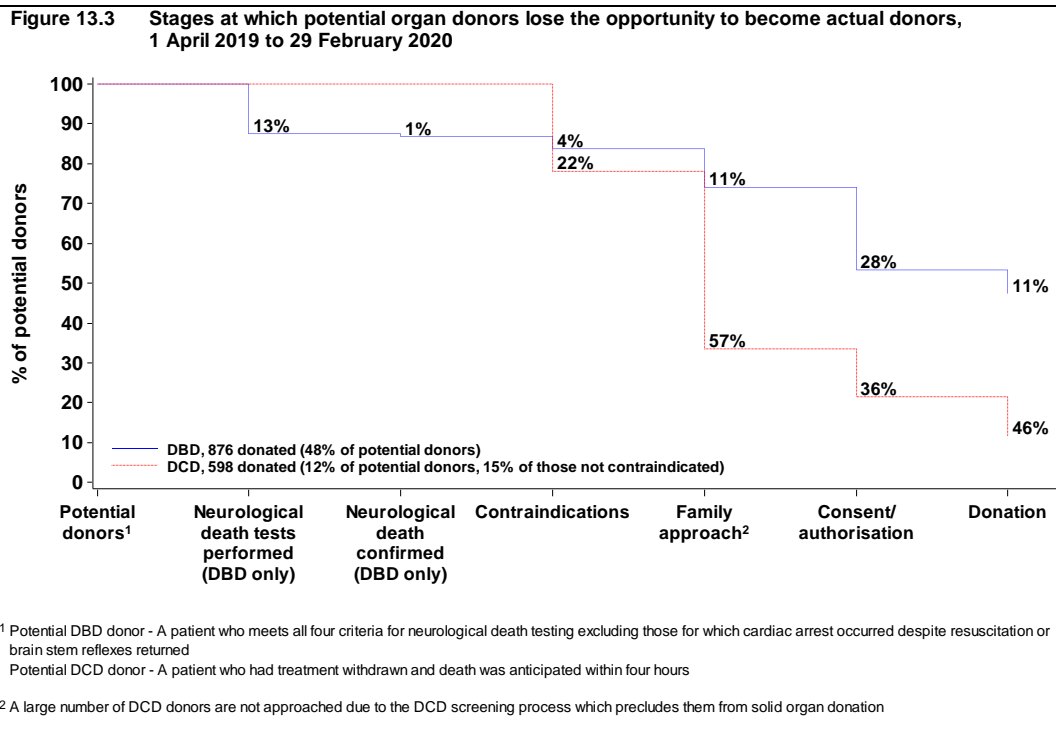
\* 103 families overruled their loved one's opt-in ODR decision to be an organ donor

\*\* 109 families overruled their loved one's opt-in decision (expressed by any method) to be an organ donor

\*\*\* There were 48 cases where deemed consent applied and in 20 cases the family did not support deemed consent

**Table 13.2 Summary of all deceased donor key percentages by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST), 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020**

<b>ODST</b>	<b>Testing rate</b>	<b>Referral rate</b>	<b>SN-OD presence rate</b>	<b>Consent/authorisation rate</b>
Eastern	90.6	92.9	93.8	67.2
London	86.2	93.4	91.5	62.0
Midlands	81.4	91.9	91.5	67.2
North West	83.8	94.2	96.0	68.0
Northern	86.7	98.2	93.7	72.6
Northern Ireland	90.3	96.1	94.6	62.4
Scotland	92.3	94.8	90.4	64.6
South Central	97.2	94.0	88.2	72.0
South East	87.0	90.7	93.2	70.0
South Wales	91.9	87.5	78.8	72.7
South West	92.0	97.9	89.8	72.2
Yorkshire	87.5	97.0	96.4	67.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>67.7</b>



### 13.4 Eligible donors

The number of eligible donors (as defined earlier) and rates per million population (pmp) are shown in **Table 13.3**, by NHS region. The number of actual donors pmp can be found in Table 3.2 of Chapter 3. Eligible DBD ranged from 15.9 pmp in the South West to 37.9 pmp in London. Eligible DCD ranged from 44 pmp in the South West to 79.6 pmp in the North West.

Across the countries, there was a range of 62.3 eligible donors pmp in Scotland to 85.3 eligible donors pmp in England. Overall, there were 1,541 eligible DBD (23.2 pmp) and 3,980 eligible DCD (59.9 pmp) in the UK, resulting in a total of 83.1 eligible donors per million population. **Tables 13.4** and **13.5** show more detailed information by country/NHS region for DBD and DCD data, respectively.

**Table 13.3 Eligible donor rates per million population (pmp), in the UK, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by country and NHS region**

Country/ NHS region of donation	Eligible DBD		Eligible DCD		TOTAL	
	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)
North East and Yorkshire	213	(24.9)	584	(68.1)	<b>797</b>	<b>(93.0)</b>
North West	164	(23.4)	558	(79.6)	<b>722</b>	<b>(103.0)</b>
Midlands	217	(20.6)	596	(56.5)	<b>813</b>	<b>(77.1)</b>
East of England	106	(16.3)	502	(77.3)	<b>608</b>	<b>(93.7)</b>
London	338	(37.9)	522	(58.6)	<b>860</b>	<b>(96.5)</b>
South East	167	(18.9)	473	(53.4)	<b>640</b>	<b>(72.3)</b>
South West	89	(15.9)	247	(44.0)	<b>336</b>	<b>(59.9)</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>(23.1)</b>	<b>3482</b>	<b>(62.2)</b>	<b>4776</b>	<b>(85.3)</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(50.0)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(25.0)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(75.0)</b>
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(25.0)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(37.5)</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>(21.7)</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>(58.9)</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>(80.6)</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>(21.3)</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>(41.0)</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>(62.3)</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>(29.3)</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>(45.7)</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>(75.0)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>(23.2)</b>	<b>3980</b>	<b>(59.9)</b>	<b>5521</b>	<b>(83.1)</b>

**Table 13.4 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by country and NHS region**

<b>Country/ NHS region of donation</b>	<b>Number of patients where neurological death was suspected</b>	<b>Neurological death testing rate (%)</b>	<b>DBD referral rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Percentage of DBD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>DBD consent/ authorisation rate (%)</b>
North East and Yorkshire	253	87.4	99.2	213	197	97.5	76.6
North West	219	82.2	99.5	164	141	97.9	70.2
Midlands	274	82.8	98.5	217	184	95.1	73.4
East of England	122	88.5	98.4	106	96	96.9	67.7
London	407	87.2	98.5	338	299	95.7	63.5
South East	192	90.6	100.0	167	150	98.0	77.3
South West	101	93.1	99.0	89	83	94.0	84.3
<b>England</b>	<b>1568</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>71.8</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>66.7</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>74.2</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>75.8</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>63.3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1844</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>71.9</b>



**Table 13.5 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by country and NHS region**

<b>Country/ NHS region of donation</b>	<b>Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated</b>	<b>DCD referral rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Percentage of DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>DCD consent/ authorisation rate (%)</b>
North East and Yorkshire	921	96.7	584	227	93.0	63.4
North West	861	92.7	558	197	94.4	67.5
Midlands	821	90.4	596	270	89.6	64.1
East of England	690	91.2	502	208	91.8	68.3
London	765	89.9	522	276	89.1	60.9
South East	628	91.2	473	195	85.6	69.2
South West	315	96.5	247	118	84.7	63.6
<b>England</b>	<b>5001</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>3482</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>65.1</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Wales</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>64.1</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>54.5</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>90.9</b>	<b>61.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5670</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>3980</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>64.2</b>

**Tables 13.6** and **13.7** show more detailed information on the key metrics by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) for DBD and DCD data, respectively. Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation (SN-ODs) work within an ODST, which covers an area of the UK. As seen in **Table 13.6**, the neurological death testing rate was highest for the South Central team and the DBD referral rate was 100% for 3 teams. The proportion of DBD approaches where a SN-OD was present was highest for the Northern team, where a SNOD was present for 99% of DBD approaches.

**Table 13.6 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)**

ODST	Number of patients where neurological death was suspected	Neurological death testing rate (%)	DBD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donors	Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached	Percentage of DBD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)
Eastern	149	90.6	98.7	133	123	96.7	65.9
London	290	86.2	99.0	239	210	95.2	61.4
Midlands	237	81.4	98.3	184	154	94.8	71.4
North West	240	83.8	99.6	184	159	98.1	68.6
Northern	113	86.7	99.1	95	91	98.9	79.1
Northern Ireland	62	90.3	100.0	55	49	98.0	63.3
Scotland	130	92.3	99.2	116	99	94.9	75.8
South Central	106	97.2	100.0	99	90	95.6	81.1
South East	207	87.0	98.6	169	148	97.3	75.0
South Wales	62	91.9	100.0	55	51	88.2	82.4
South West	88	92.0	98.9	78	73	95.9	82.2
Yorkshire	160	87.5	99.4	134	120	96.7	75.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1844</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>71.9</b>

**Table 13.7** indicates that for DCD patients, the highest referral rate was for the Northern team. The proportion of DCD approaches for which a SN-OD was present was highest for the Yorkshire team. No account has been taken of the demographics of the populations within the teams which may impact on the rates presented.

<b>Table 13.7 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>						
<b>ODST</b>	<b>Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated</b>	<b>DCD referral rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Percentage of DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
Eastern	743	91.8	540	234	92.3	67.9
London	550	90.5	405	201	87.6	62.7
Midlands	694	89.8	517	245	89.4	64.5
North West	964	92.9	601	213	94.4	67.6
Northern	355	98.0	245	84	88.1	65.5
Northern Ireland	125	94.4	86	44	90.9	61.4
Scotland	263	92.8	223	110	86.4	54.5
South Central	434	92.6	325	121	82.6	65.3
South East	478	87.4	312	145	89.0	64.8
South Wales	190	83.7	150	48	68.8	62.5
South West	248	97.2	200	103	85.4	65.0
Yorkshire	626	96.3	376	161	96.3	61.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5670</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>3980</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>64.2</b>

**Table 13.8** shows key metrics separately for patients meeting the PDA criteria who were referred in an ICU or an emergency department (irrespective of where the patient died), for DBD and DCD, respectively. Note that the total number of patients in this table and the associated rates do not match the other tables throughout this chapter as Table 13.7 is based on the subset of patients who were referred to the ODST.

**Table 13.9** shows key metrics separately for adult and paediatric patients, for DBD and DCD, respectively. Note that of the 86 paediatric patients for whom neurological death was suspected, tests were not performed on 24 patients.

**Table 13.8 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by unit where patient referred from, for patients who met the PDA criteria and were referred**

Eligible donor type	Unit where patient was referred from	Number of patients who were referred <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Percentage of approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>
DBD	Critical care	1762	88.3	1483	1313	96.3	72.1	845
	Emergency dept.	65	86.2	55	51	96.1	70.6	31
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1827</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>1538</b>	<b>1364</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>876</b>
DCD	Critical care	5115		3602	1645	90.4	64.9	582
	Emergency dept.	117		87	51	76.5	58.8	16
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5232</b>		<b>3689</b>	<b>1696</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>598</b>

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 9 DCD donors referred from critical care

**Table 13.9 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by age group**

Eligible donor type	Age group	Number of patients who met referral criteria <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Percentage of approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>
DBD	Adult (>=18)	1758	88.3	99.1	1483	1321	96.2	72.0	847
	Paediatric (<18)	86	72.1	97.7	58	46	93.5	69.6	29
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1844</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>876</b>
DCD	Adult (>=18)	5467		92.6	3815	1647	89.9	65.0	582
	Paediatric (<18)	203		82.3	165	62	72.6	45.2	16
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5670</b>		<b>92.3</b>	<b>3980</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>598</b>

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 9 DCD donors aged 18 and over

### 13.5 Consent/ authorisation rates

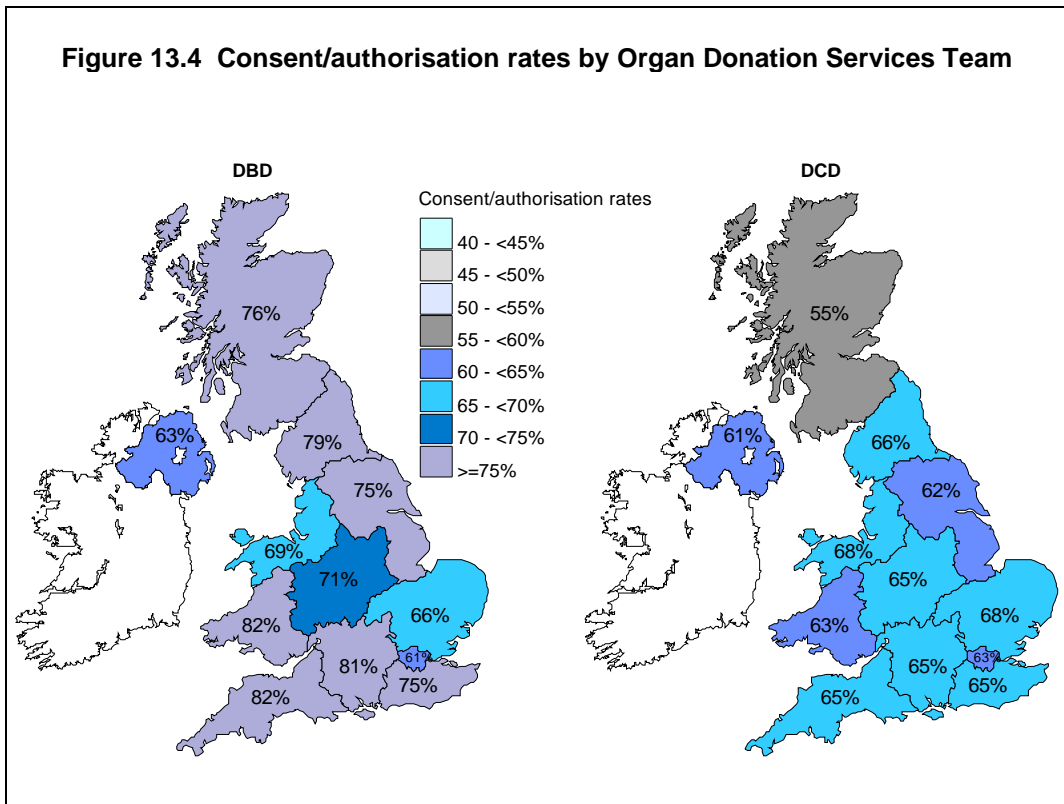
The overall DBD consent/authorisation rate was 72% and the 95% confidence limits for this percentage are 70% - 74%. For DCD, the overall rate was 64% and the 95% confidence limits are 62% - 67%.

Consent/authorisation rates by Organ Donation Services Team are shown in **Figure 13.4** for both DBD and DCD. Caution should be applied when interpreting these consent/authorisation rates as no adjustment has been made for the mix of patients in terms of age, prior opt-in decision and ethnicity.

Across the country/NHS region, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 62% in London to 89% in South West. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 55% in Scotland and the East Midlands to 73% in Wales and the East of England.

The overall consent/authorisation rates (combining DBD and DCD) for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were 68%, 69%, 65% and 62%, respectively.

Across the Organ Donation Services Teams, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 61% in the London team to 82% in the South West and South Wales teams. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 55% in the Scotland team to 68% in the Eastern and North West teams.



**Table 13.10** shows the consent/authorisation rate separately for white patients and patients from BAME communities. The national DBD consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from BAME communities were 77% and 42%, respectively. A smaller, but still significant, difference was observed for DCD consent/authorisation rates: 66% and 43%, respectively. Note that there were an additional 17 DBD and 47 DCD families approached where the ethnicity was not known or not reported.

The Northern, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Wales and South West teams each accounted for only 2% or less where patients from BAME communities' families were approached for a decision about organ donation, whereas London accounted for 42%. Most teams had a very small proportion, therefore accounting for some of the variation observed in overall consent/authorisation rates between teams. Note that consent/authorisation rates have not been provided where the number of families approached is less than ten.

<b>Table 13.10 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) and ethnicity</b>											
<b>ODST</b>	<b>White eligible donors</b>					<b>Eligible donors from BAME communities</b>					<b>All</b>
	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)<sup>1</sup></b>
Eastern	106	70.8	218	70.2	<b>70.4</b>	17	35.3	12	33.3	<b>34.5</b>	<b>67.2</b>
London	122	75.4	148	68.9	<b>71.9</b>	86	43.0	47	44.7	<b>43.6</b>	<b>62.0</b>
Midlands	129	76.7	222	67.1	<b>70.7</b>	25	44.0	19	42.1	<b>43.2</b>	<b>67.2</b>
North West	139	74.1	202	68.3	<b>70.7</b>	17	23.5	6	-	<b>30.4</b>	<b>68.0</b>
Northern	87	80.5	82	64.6	<b>72.8</b>	4	-	2	-	-	<b>72.6</b>
Northern Ireland	46	65.2	41	61.0	<b>63.2</b>	2	-	0	-	-	<b>62.4</b>
Scotland	92	79.3	106	54.7	<b>66.2</b>	5	-	2	-	-	<b>64.6</b>
South Central	86	83.7	111	64.0	<b>72.6</b>	4	-	6	-	<b>50.0</b>	<b>72.0</b>
South East	119	79.8	126	69.0	<b>74.3</b>	27	51.9	16	43.8	<b>48.8</b>	<b>70.0</b>
South Wales	46	82.6	40	65.0	<b>74.4</b>	4	-	2	-	-	<b>72.7</b>
South West	68	83.8	93	68.8	<b>75.2</b>	1	-	3	-	-	<b>72.2</b>
Yorkshire	115	76.5	151	63.6	<b>69.2</b>	3	-	7	-	<b>10.0</b>	<b>67.3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1155</b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>1540</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>67.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 64 families approached where the ethnicity was not known or not reported

**Table 13.11** shows the reasons why the family did not give consent/authorisation, by donor type. The most common reason reported for why the families of both eligible DBD and DCD families did not give consent/authorisation was that the patient had previously expressed a decision not to donate. Overall, this reason was reported in 25% of cases.

<b>Table 13.11 Reasons why the family did not support organ donation, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by donor type</b>						
<b>Primary reason why family did not support organ donation</b>	<b>Donor type</b>				<b>Total</b>	
	<b>DBD</b>		<b>DCD</b>		<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>		
Patient previously expressed a decision not to donate	110	28.7	143	23.4	253	25.4
Family were not sure whether the patient would have agreed to donation	55	14.3	85	13.9	140	14.1
Family did not believe in donation	15	3.9	12	2.0	27	2.7
Family felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs	36	9.4	16	2.6	52	5.2
Family were divided over the decision	17	4.4	22	3.6	39	3.9
Family felt the patient had suffered enough	24	6.3	66	10.8	90	9.1
Family did not want surgery to the body	40	10.4	58	9.5	98	9.9
Family wanted to stay with the patient after death	3	0.8	7	1.2	10	1.0
Family had difficulty understanding/accepting neurological testing	3	0.8	0	-	3	0.3
Family felt the length of time for donation process was too long	20	5.2	109	17.8	129	13.0
Family concerned that other people may disapprove/be offended	0	-	1	0.2	1	0.1
Family felt the body needs to be buried whole (unrelated to religious or cultural reasons)	22	5.7	13	2.1	35	3.5
Family concerned that organs may not be transplanted	0	-	7	1.2	7	0.7
Families concerned about organ allocation	0	-	1	0.2	1	0.1
Family concerned donation may delay the funeral	0	-	2	0.3	2	0.2
Strong refusal - probing not appropriate	11	2.9	16	2.6	27	2.7
Other	28	7.3	53	8.7	81	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>100</b>



### 13.6 Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD) involvement

**Table 13.12** shows the proportion of family approaches where a SN-OD was present, for DBD and DCD separately, and overall. Nationally, 96% of DBD and 89% of DCD family approaches had a SN-OD present. There is some variation between teams in the percentage of DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present, however SN-OD presence rates are high across all teams for DBD approaches.

<b>Table 13.12 Percentage of family approaches for which a Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD) was present from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>							
<b>ODST</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors where SN-OD present for approach</b>	<b>Percentage of DBD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors where SN-OD present for approach</b>	<b>Percentage of DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>Overall percentage of DBD/DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>
Eastern	123	119	96.7	234	216	92.3	<b>93.8</b>
London	210	200	95.2	201	176	87.6	<b>91.5</b>
Midlands	154	146	94.8	245	219	89.4	<b>91.5</b>
North West	159	156	98.1	213	201	94.4	<b>96.0</b>
Northern	91	90	98.9	84	74	88.1	<b>93.7</b>
Northern Ireland	49	48	98.0	44	40	90.9	<b>94.6</b>
Scotland	99	94	94.9	110	95	86.4	<b>90.4</b>
South Central	90	86	95.6	121	100	82.6	<b>88.2</b>
South East	148	144	97.3	145	129	89.0	<b>93.2</b>
South Wales	51	45	88.2	48	33	68.8	<b>78.8</b>
South West	73	70	95.9	103	88	85.4	<b>89.8</b>
Yorkshire	120	116	96.7	161	155	96.3	<b>96.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>1526</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>92.3</b>



**Table 13.13** shows the effect on the consent/authorisation rate when a SN-OD is present or not present for the approach to a family for a formal organ donation discussion. Evidence shows that the family is more likely to support organ donation when a trained SN-OD is present for the approach and this is particularly apparent for eligible DCD donors. Again, there is wide variation between teams.

Caution should be applied when interpreting these rates as no account has been taken of approaches initiated by the family, patient's prior opt-in decision or ethnicity.

<b>Table 13.13 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates with/without a SN-OD present from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>											
<b>ODST</b>	<b>SN-OD present for approach</b>					<b>SN-OD not present for approach</b>					<b>All</b>
	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
Eastern	119	65.5	216	70.4	<b>68.7</b>	4	75.0	18	38.9	<b>45.5</b>	<b>67.2</b>
London	200	61.5	176	67.0	<b>64.1</b>	10	60.0	25	32.0	<b>40.0</b>	<b>62.0</b>
Midlands	146	73.3	219	69.4	<b>71.0</b>	8	37.5	26	23.1	<b>26.5</b>	<b>67.2</b>
North West	156	69.9	201	70.6	<b>70.3</b>	3	0.0	12	16.7	<b>13.3</b>	<b>68.0</b>
Northern	90	78.9	74	68.9	<b>74.4</b>	1	100.0	10	40.0	<b>45.5</b>	<b>72.6</b>
Northern Ireland	48	64.6	40	62.5	<b>63.6</b>	1	0.0	4	50.0	<b>40.0</b>	<b>62.4</b>
Scotland	94	79.8	95	63.2	<b>71.4</b>	5	0.0	15	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	<b>64.6</b>
South Central	86	81.4	100	78.0	<b>79.6</b>	4	75.0	21	4.8	<b>16.0</b>	<b>72.0</b>
South East	144	75.0	129	67.4	<b>71.4</b>	4	75.0	16	43.8	<b>50.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>
South Wales	45	88.9	33	81.8	<b>85.9</b>	6	33.3	15	20.0	<b>23.8</b>	<b>72.7</b>
South West	70	82.9	88	71.6	<b>76.6</b>	3	66.7	15	26.7	<b>33.3</b>	<b>72.2</b>
Yorkshire	116	77.6	155	63.9	<b>69.7</b>	4	0.0	6	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	<b>67.3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>1526</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>67.7</b>

## 13.7 Comparison with previous years

Table 13.14 and Figure 13.5 show the key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit (PDA) for the last four financial years.

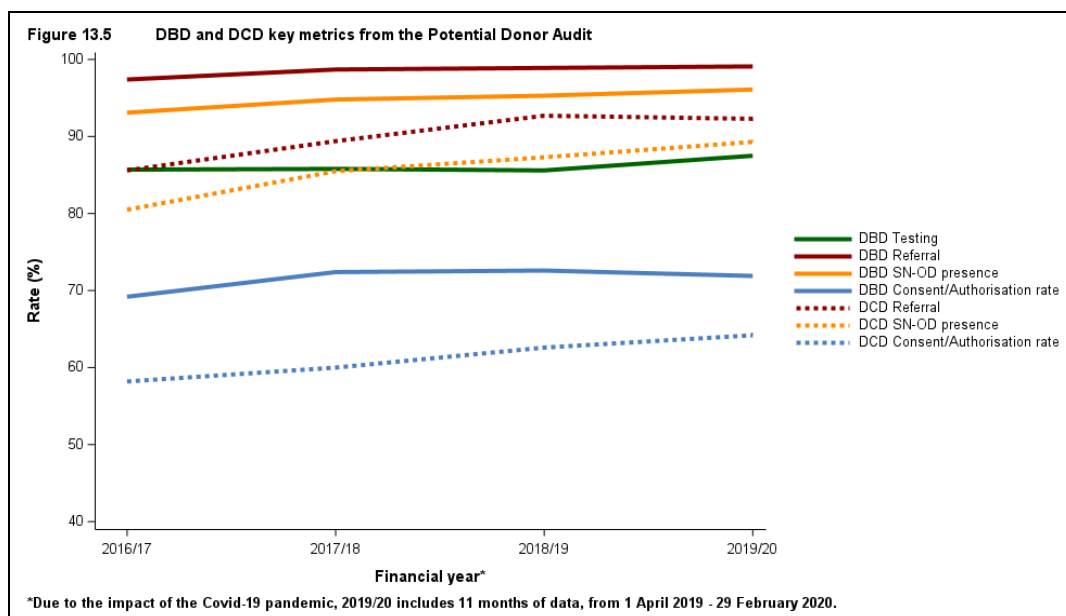
Table 13.14 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, by financial year										
Eligible donor type	Financial year	Number of patients who met referral criteria <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Proportion of family approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)	Number of families who consented to/ authorised donation	Consent/ authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>
DBD	2016-2017	1787	85.7	97.4	1454	1339	93.1	926	69.2	827
	2017-2018	1956	85.8	98.7	1584	1474	94.8	1067	72.4	953
	2018-2019	2008	85.6	98.9	1639	1497	95.3	1087	72.6	976
	2019-2020 <sup>3</sup>	1844	87.5	99.1	1541	1367	96.1	983	71.9	876
DCD	2016-2017	6233		85.6	4262	1837	80.5	1069	58.2	574
	2017-2018	6283		89.4	4457	1859	85.5	1115	60.0	612
	2018-2019	5982		92.7	4186	1756	87.3	1099	62.6	612
	2019-2020 <sup>3</sup>	5670		92.3	3980	1709	89.3	1098	64.2	598
TOTAL	2016-2017	8020		88.2	5716	3176	85.8	1995	62.8	1401
	2017-2018	8239		91.6	6041	3333	89.6	2182	65.5	1565
	2018-2019	7990		94.3	5825	3253	91.0	2186	67.2	1588
	2019-2020 <sup>3</sup>	7514		93.9	5521	3076	92.3	2081	67.7	1474

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected (excluding those for which cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation, and brain stem reflexes returned; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 10 DCD donors in 2016-2017, 14 DCD donors in 2017-2018, 24 DCD donors in 2018-2019 and 9 DCD donors in 2019-2020

<sup>3</sup> Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2019-2020 includes 11 months of data, from 1 April 2019 – 29 February 2020

DBD referral rates have remained unchanged, with DCD referral rates increasing in 2018-2019 before falling slightly in 2019-2020. Increases have been observed in the proportion of approaches where a SN-OD was present, especially for DCD. An increase has also been observed in consent/authorisation rate for DCD whereas the DBD rate remains unchanged.



### 13.8 Consented/authorised cases not proceeding to solid organ donation

Consent/authorisation for donation was ascertained for 983 eligible DBD donors and 1,098 eligible DCD donors; 876 (89%) and 598 (54%) of these cases proceeded to donate at least one solid organ, respectively. **Table 13.15** shows the reasons why donation did not proceed for the 107 eligible DBD and 500 eligible DCD cases where consent/authorisation was ascertained. The main reason reported for consented/authorised eligible DBD donors not proceeding to donate was that the organs were deemed to be medically unsuitable by transplant centres. The main reason for consented/authorised eligible DCD donors not proceeding was prolonged time to asystole, meaning that the donor did not die in a timeframe suitable for organ donation.

<b>Table 13.15 Reasons why consented/authorised eligible donors did not proceed to donate, 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020, by donor type</b>						
<b>Primary reason why donation did not proceed</b>	<b>Donor type</b>				<b>Total</b>	
	<b>DBD</b>		<b>DCD</b>			
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Family changed mind	9	8.4	15	3.0	24	4.0
Coroner/Procurator Fiscal refusal	10	9.4	16	3.2	26	4.3
Organs deemed medically unsuitable by recipient centres	38	35.5	141	28.2	179	29.5
Organs deemed medically unsuitable on surgical inspection	11	10.3	7	1.4	18	3.0
Prolonged time to asystole	0	-	226	45.2	226	37.2
Cardiac Arrest	8	7.5	11	2.2	19	3.1
General instability	8	7.5	29	5.8	37	6.1
Logistic reasons	0	-	4	0.8	4	0.7
Positive virology	10	9.4	10	2.0	20	3.3
Family placed conditions on donation	0	-	2	0.4	2	0.3
Other	13	12.2	39	7.8	52	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>100</b>