

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE**

KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP

COVID-19 AND KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION UK DATA

INTRODUCTION

- 1 The SARS coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic has had many implications for transplantation in the UK. This paper gives an overview of data in UK kidney transplantation in the lead up to and from the onset of the pandemic. This includes activity data, an overview of operational changes as well as outcome data for patients listed for kidney transplantation and patients with a functioning kidney transplant.

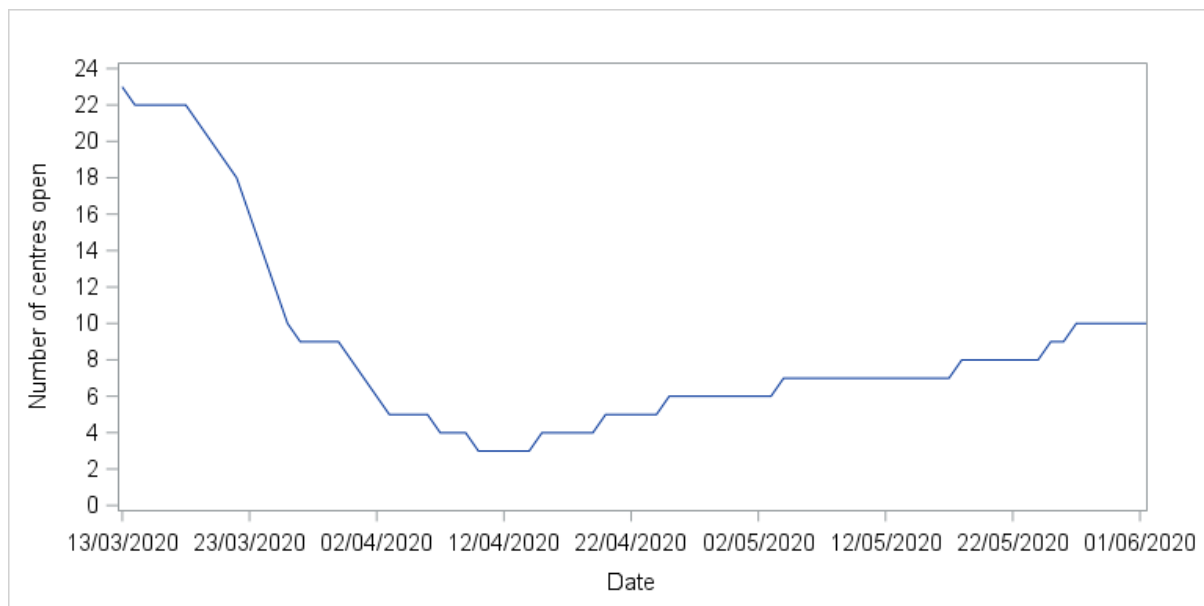
DATA AND METHODS

- 2 Data on offers, retrievals, transplants and the transplant list were extracted from the UK transplant registry.

TRANSPLANT CENTRE STATUS

- 3 On 14 March 2020, Cardiff became the first kidney transplant centre to close after the onset of the pandemic. In the following 2 weeks, a further 19 centres closed with 3 centres remaining open between 10 April and 14 April. Centres have since started to re-open with 10 centres open at time of writing. The status of centres over this period is shown in Figure 1.
- 4 In response to the centre closures, the offering scheme was amended from 30 March so that offers to Tier B patients would be centre choice. Named patient based offering has remained in Tier A.

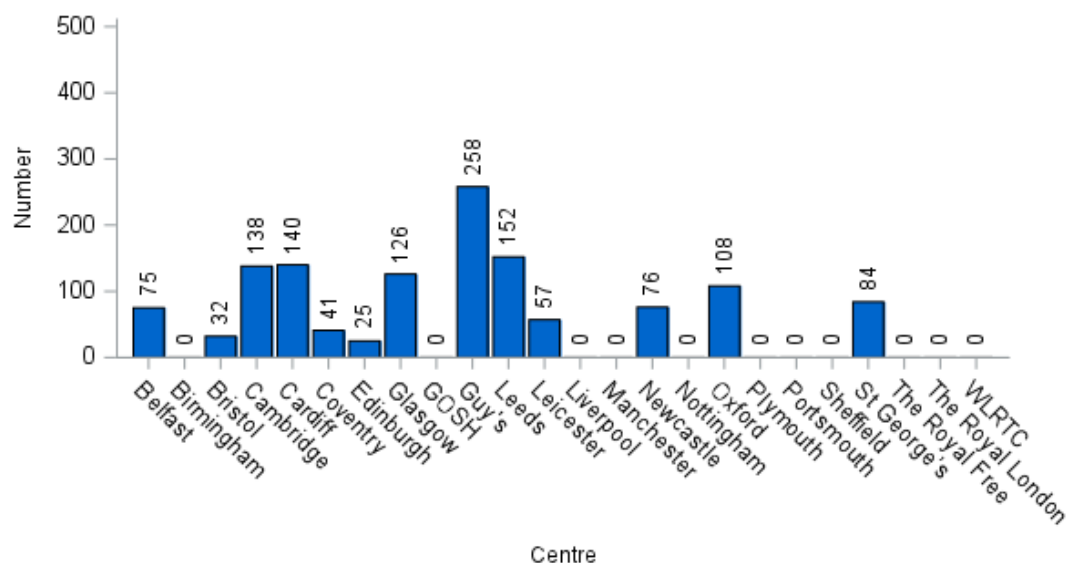
Figure 1 – Number of UK Adult Kidney Transplant centres open between 13 March and 2 June 2020



ACTIVITY

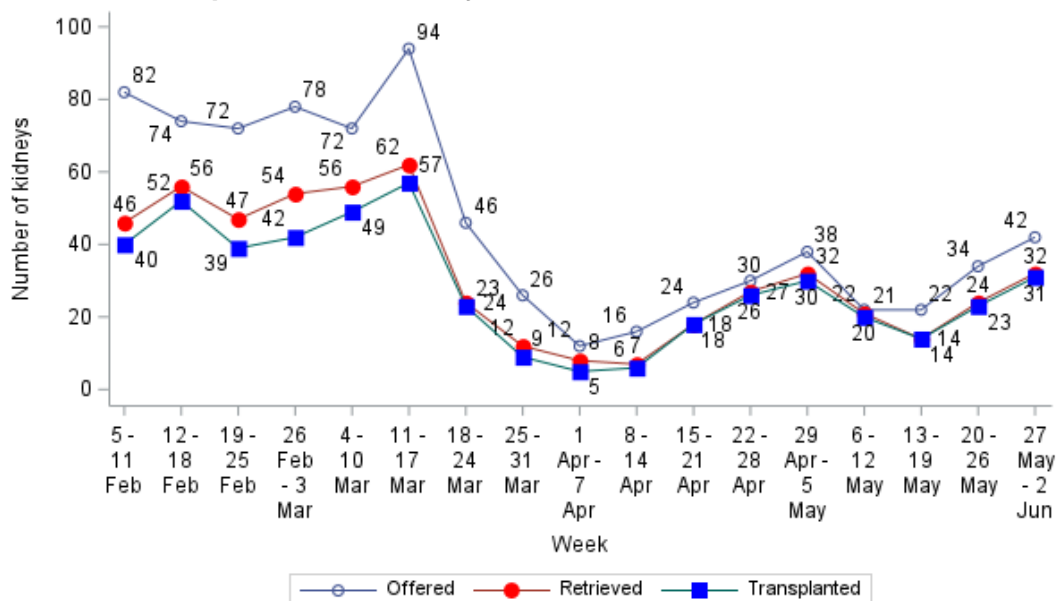
- 5 To help facilitate the re-opening of kidney transplant centres for a subset of patients, NHSBT has suspended all patients at centres where requested. The number of patients on the active kidney transplant list at 4 June 2020 is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 – Number of patients on the active kidney transplant list in the UK by centre as at 4 June 2020



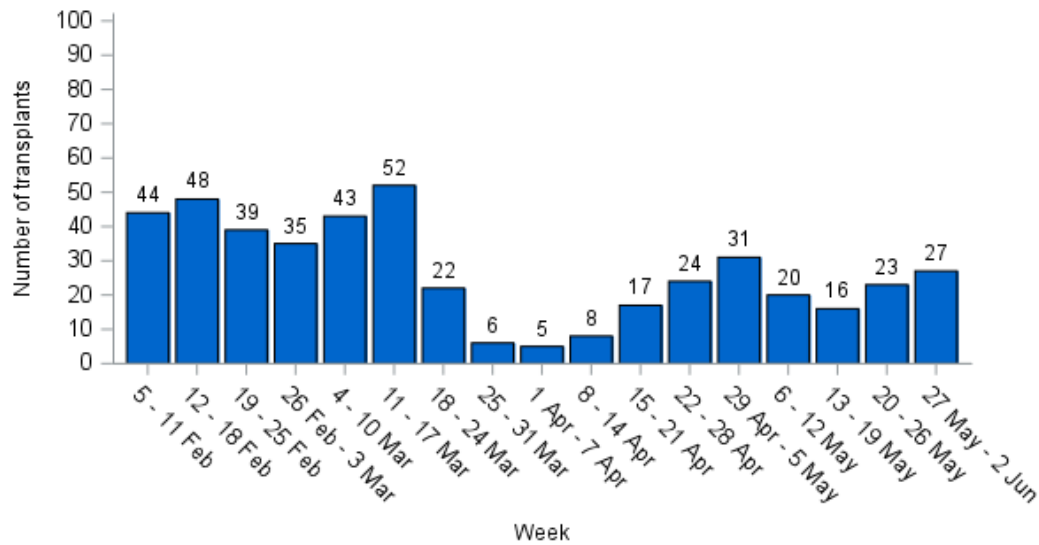
- 6 The number of kidneys from UK deceased donors offered, retrieved and transplanted in the period from 5 February to 2 June 2020 is shown in Figure 3. The figure shows a decline in activity from the week commencing 11 March, with the activity starting to increase from the week commencing 15 April.

Figure 3– Number of kidneys from UK deceased donors offered, retrieved and transplanted, 5 February to 2 June 2020



- 7 Figure 4 shows the number of deceased donor kidney transplants by week between 5 February and 2 June 2020.

**Figure 4 – Number of deceased donor kidney transplants performed in the UK
from 5 February to 2 June 2020**



SUMMARY

- 8 Since the onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, kidney transplant activity has decreased in the UK. Many transplant centres have closed temporarily, and the offering scheme has adopted local offering in Tier B. From mid-April, centres have started to re-open and transplant activity has started to increase. The scheme is expected to return to patient based offering in both Tier A and Tier B on 16 June 2020.

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