



NHSBT BOARD – January 2021

UPDATE FROM THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

Organ donation and transplantation position – Wales

Summary Figures	2019/20	Q3 2020/21	First 3 Quarters 2020/21
Donors after brain death (DBD)	51	10	27
Donors after circulatory death (DCD)	24	1	9
Total deceased donors	75	11	36
Living donors	29	5	7
Total patients on active list (end of period)	264	190*	190*
Deceased donor transplants	157	23	74
Living donor transplants	40	8	11
Total organ transplants	197	31	85
Number of people opted-in to the ODR	1,285,472	12,582	1,313,076
Percentage of population opted-in to the ODR	41	42	42
Number of people opted-out from the ODR	189,180	1,437	193,253
Percentage of population opted-out from ODR	6	6	6

*transplant waiting lists and transplants based on Welsh postcode of residence of patient. Excludes patients temporarily suspended from the transplant list. Some transplant centres are still close due to COVID19 response.

EU Withdrawal

As of 31 December 2020 the UK is no longer part of the European Union. Amendments have been made to the [Quality and Safety of Organs Intended for Transplantation Regulations \(2019\)](#) and the [Human Tissue \(Quality and Safety for Human Application\) Regulations \(2019\)](#).

NHS Blood and Transplant Wales Directions relation to the allocation of organs have been signed and issued to NHSBT. <https://gov.wales/nhs-blood-and-transplant-gwaed-thrawsblaniadaur-gig-wales-amendment-directions-2020>

Common Frameworks for organs, tissues and cells have been joint developed by officials in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They will formally establish ways of working to develop policy approaches for the area of organs, tissues and cells after the EU transition that ended in December 2020.

Legislation

Changes will be made to Wales's Excluded Relevant Material Regulations to bring them in line with other parts of the UK. Currently it is not possible to secure time to debate the draft regulations but the consultation summary report was published on 11 January 2021: <https://gov.wales/human-transplantation-excluded-relevant-material-wales-amendment-regulations-consultation-summary-0>

Communications and awareness

The re-edited 'Don't Let Your Organ Donation be a Guessing Game' campaign is being relaunched on 25 January with broad coverage on TV, radio, social, digital, and Welsh language channels. This will be a highly visible 3 week campaign with an expected reach of 94% of all adults in Wales.

There is continued sharing of new case studies from a broad range of organ donation backgrounds, including a feature piece on ITV Wales news with cornea recipient and CBBC star, Angharad Rhodes.

Engagement levels across social media channels remain high, with new content weekly.

Wales Transplantation Advisory Group (WTAG)

The last meeting was held on 24 November 2020. An update was given on organ donation and transplantation performance which highlighted there was a light increase in DBD SNOD Presence rate from 90% to 93%. DBD referral rate is 98% and DBD Consent rate is 76%. The length of the donation process is still impacting on donor numbers.

There was an update on the draft Organ Donation and Transplantation Strategy and next steps, including discussion about the implementation process in Wales. A more detailed discussion on this aspect will take place at the next meeting.

The Group heard that the Organ Donation Communication Plan is currently focusing around the fifth anniversary of Deemed Consent in Wales; the Minister has recorded a message for social media.

The Group was advised that the appointment of the Welsh Member to the Human Tissue Authority had been re-advertised after the exercise carried out before Christmas did not appoint. The closing date is 1 February.

Next WTAG meeting to take place is 2 February 2021.

Update from Welsh Blood Service (WBS)

As of 14 December, all 4 UK Health Ministers agreed to lift the ban on deferral of MSM donating blood, subject to a revised risk assessment. This will be operational from June 2021 and there has been excellent press coverage, WBS included.

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-uk-health-departments-lifting-msm-blood-donation-ban>

The outcome of the RECOVERY trial was announced on 15 January. Unfortunately it was found to not be efficacious in the ITU population. WBS has been collecting Convalescent Plasma as part of the trial and WG are now in discussions with them regarding the next steps. It is understood that NHSBT are putting forward a further trial for the use of CP and WG will await the outcome of this before taking work forward.