

COVID - 19 Bulletin Number 30

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

19th March 2021

Message from OTDT Medical Director Professor John Forsythe

Dear Colleague,

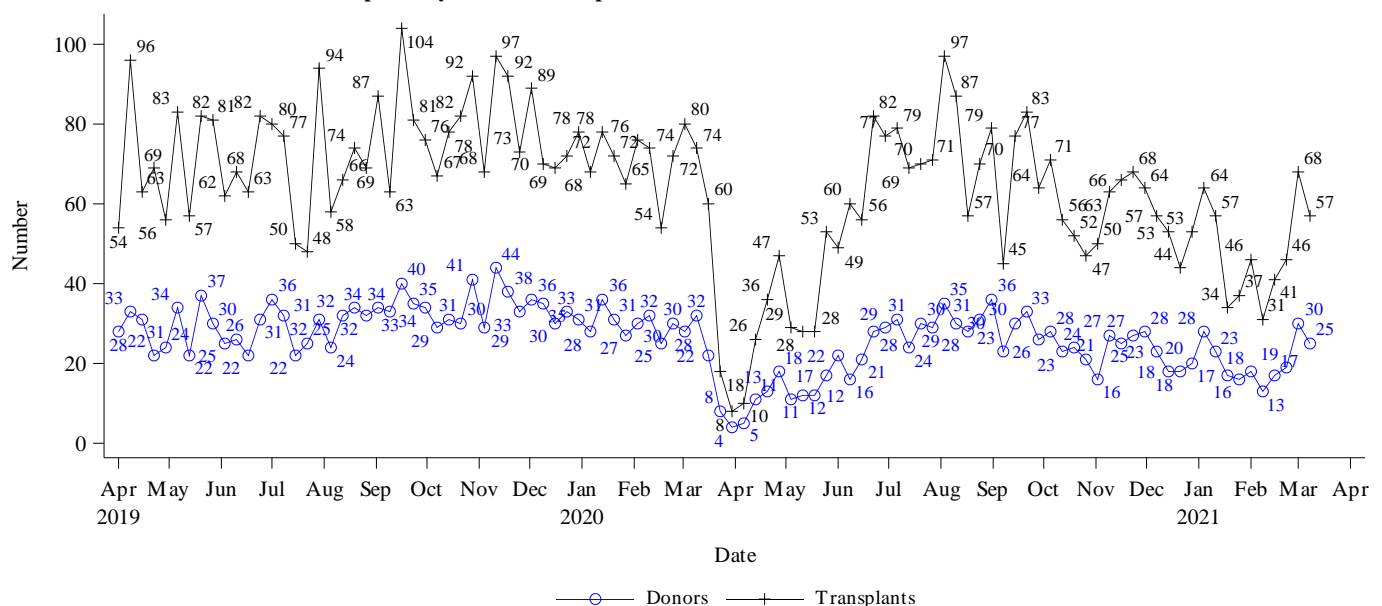
I wanted to provide you a short update as we move through the month. As you can see from the data below, referrals are beginning to return to normal levels and I am delighted to say that **we are now in the position where all transplant units are open across the UK** - still with some restriction in total waiting list but I am aware that attention has now turned to addressing that fact. You can find the latest information around centres here: <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/transplant-centre-closures-and-restrictions/>

It has now been nearly a year since we first started dealing with the pandemic – I am immensely grateful to all of you for what has been achieved and how we have continued to support patients, donors and donor families - and indeed many of you have also pitched in to give your efforts to the wider NHS. I want to extend my thanks to each and every member of the team for their incredible hard work and dedication over the last year.

COVID- 19 activity summary

The Clinical Team reviewed the latest COVID-19 activity data. While there has been a slight drop in numbers, we are still approaching pre-pandemic levels. The team will continue to look at the data and ensure we share the most up to date guidance to continue in the facilitation of donation and transplantation wherever possible.

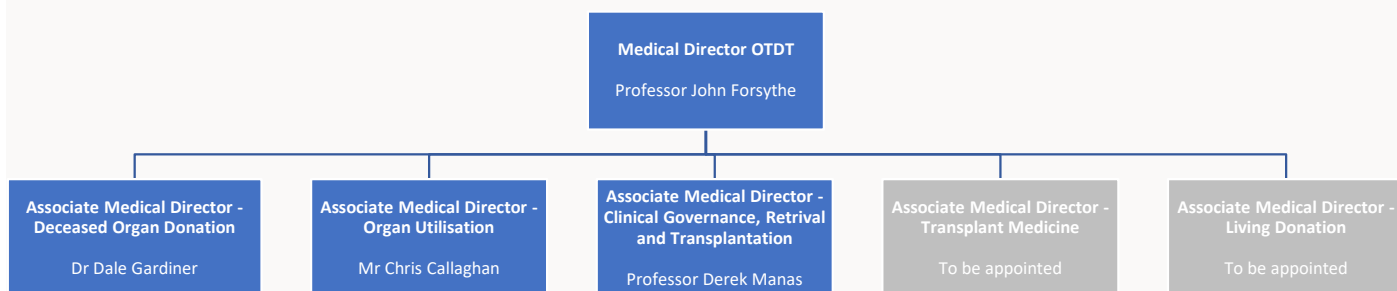
Figure 1 Effect CoVID-19 has on Deceased Donation and Transplantation
Number of deceased donors and transplants by week since 1 April 2019



Changes to OTDT Medical Team Structure

Many of you will have received communication cascaded via the Advisory Groups with regards to some important changes to the OTDT Medical Team structure.

The directorate of Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (OTDT) announced changes to its target operating model in November 2020. These changes have afforded me the opportunity to review the OTDT Medical Team Structure. From April 2021, three of the current OTDT Medical Team roles will be converted to Associate Medical Director (UK) roles and include the following:



In addition, you will note another 2 posts, an Associate Medical Director – Transplant Medicine role, currently advertised via NHS Jobs. Lisa Burnapp is also included within the revised structure and I anticipate that she will take up her post in continuing to lead Living donation. Once all Associate Medical Directors are in post my intention is to share the detail of individuals' roles and responsibilities.