



Summary of Donor and Transplant Activity

In the financial year to 31 March 2021, compared with the previous year

- there was a 25% fall in the number of deceased donors to 1,180
- the number of donors after brain death fell by 19% to 766, while the number of donors after circulatory death fell by 35% to 414
- the number of living donors fell by 58% to 444, accounting for 27% of the total number of organ donors
- the total number of patients whose lives were potentially saved or improved by an organ transplant fell by 30% to 3,391

The total number of patients registered for a transplant has decreased slightly (by 2%), so that:

- there were 4,256 patients waiting for a transplant at the end of March 2021, with a further 5,307 temporarily suspended from transplant lists
- 474 patients died while on the active list waiting for their transplant compared with 377 in the previous year, an increase of 26%. A further 693 were removed from the transplant list. The removals were mostly as a result of deteriorating health and ineligibility for transplant and many of these patients would have died shortly afterwards.

Some of the other key messages from this report are that, compared with last year, there has been:

- a fall of 33% in the total number of kidney transplants
- a fall of 49% in the total number of transplants involving a pancreas
- a fall of 19% in the total number of liver transplants
- a fall of 7% in the total number of heart transplants
- a fall of 44% in the total number of lung or heart-lung transplants
- a fall of 40% in the total number of intestinal transplants
- A fall of 35% in the total number of corneas retrieved to NHSBT Eye Banks and a fall of 47% in the total number of corneal transplants
- The overall referral rate of potential donors has dropped from 93% to 83%, but there has been an increase in the proportion of approaches where a Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation was present, from 92% to 93%
- an increase in the overall consent/authorisation rate for organ donation from 68% to 69%
- an increase in the number of opt-in registrations on the ODR, from 26.0 to 26.7 million at the end of March 2021. There were 2.0 million opt-out registrants