

NHSBT Board Meeting – 22 July 2021

Written update from Northern Ireland

Introduction of an Opt-out System for Organ Donation

Following confirmation of support from the First Minister and deputy First Minister, the draft Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill had its first reading in the NI Assembly on 5 July 2021.

This will now allow subsequent stages to be timetabled within the remainder of the mandate and, subject to Assembly agreement, the Bill would be passed into law in the Spring of 2022.

Officials will now work with NHSBT and other relevant stakeholders in preparation for the upcoming scrutiny stages of the legislative process.

Organ Donation Promotion

The NI Organ Donation Promotion Manager continues to work with various stakeholders to roll out a series of promotional events.

The focus in the coming weeks will be on Organ Donation Week in September; however, given the recent introduction of legislation in the Assembly, initial plans are also being developed for public information campaigns both before and after implementation of an opt-out system for organ donation.