

NHSBT Board Meeting
Written update from Northern Ireland

29 March 2022

Introduction of an Opt-out System for Organ Donation

The Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill passed the final consideration stage in the NI Assembly on 8 February 2022 and is currently awaiting Royal Assent.

Plans have been developed, in conjunction with NHSBT and Public Health Agency colleagues, for a 12-month implementation period, which will include a public awareness campaign, with the aim of the system going live in Spring 2023.

A business case for the costs associated with the legislation has recently been approved by the NI Department of Finance, but is subject to the relevant funding being secured in the Department's budget.

Organ Donation Steering Group

The next meeting of the NI Organ Donation Steering Group is scheduled to take place on 1 April. Discussions will focus on the public information campaign to inform of the change in organ donation law.

Organ Donation and Transplantation services

Departmental staff will meet with commissioners at the end of March to discuss organ donation and transplantation, including what steps need to be taken to implement the current strategy and any recommendations coming out of the Organ Utilisation Group.