

# National Potential Donor Audit

## Key messages

- There were 37,588 audited deaths reported through the Potential Donor Audit in the financial year to 31 March 2022, including 1,389 (99.4%) of the 1,397 deceased organ donors.
- Compared to the previous financial year, improvements have been observed in the overall referral rate of potential donors, from 84% in 2020/21 to 93% in 2021/22. The proportion of approaches where a Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation was present has remained the same at 93%, however the overall consent/authorisation rate has decreased in 2021/22, from 69% to 66%.
- The consent/authorisation rate was 92% when a patient had expressed an opt in decision, but 92 families overruled their loved one's decision to be an organ donor.
- A significant difference is still apparent in the consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities (70% and 38% respectively).

## 13.1 Introduction

In this chapter, summary data from the National Potential Donor Audit (PDA) are shown for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and data from the previous three financial years are also provided for comparison purposes. The data comprise all audited patient deaths in UK Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and emergency departments, excluding wards and patients over 80 years of age, in the time period. Paediatric ICU data are included however neonatal ICU data have been excluded. The data are based on information received by 9 May 2022. **The number of solid organ donors reported in this chapter will differ from that shown in the rest of the report, due to the national PDA excluding specific patients.**

## 13.2 Definitions

All data shown in this chapter use the following definitions.

**Eligible donors after brain death (DBD)** are defined as patients for whom death was confirmed following neurological tests and who had no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

**Eligible donors after circulatory death (DCD)** are defined as patients who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated, with no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

**Absolute medical contraindications** to organ donation are listed here:

[https://nhsbt.dbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/6455/contraindications\\_to\\_organ\\_donation.pdf](https://nhsbt.dbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/6455/contraindications_to_organ_donation.pdf)

**Imminent death anticipated** patients who are not confirmed dead using neurological criteria, receiving invasive ventilation, a clinical decision to withdraw treatment has been made and a controlled death is anticipated within a time frame to allow donation to occur.

**Neurological death suspected** patients who meet all of the following criteria: invasive ventilation, Glasgow Coma Scale 3 not explained by sedation, no respiratory effort, fixed pupils, no cough or gag reflex. Excluding those not tested as cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation, brain stem reflexes returned, or neonates less than 2 months post term.

**The neurological death testing rate** is the percentage of patients for whom neurological death was suspected who were tested.

**The referral rate** is the percentage of patients for whom neurological death was suspected or imminent death was anticipated, who were referred to the Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD).

**The proportion of approaches where a SN-OD was present** is the percentage of eligible donor donation decision conversations where a SN-OD was present (includes telephone and video call conversations).

**Deemed consent** applies if a person who died in Wales, England or Jersey meets deemed consent criteria: aged 18 or over, has not expressed an organ donation decision either to opt in, opt out or appoint a representative, has lived in the country in which they died for longer than 12 months and is ordinarily resident there, and had the capacity to understand the notion of deemed consent for a significant period before their death. Note that where a patient has verbally expressed an opt out or opt in decision deemed consent does not apply.

**Deemed authorisation** applies if a person, who died in Scotland, meets deemed authorisation criteria: aged 16 or over, has not registered or expressed, in writing, an organ donation decision either to opt in or opt out, has lived in Scotland for longer than 12 months and is ordinarily resident there, and had the capacity to understand the notion of deemed authorisation for a significant period before their death. Note that, in Scotland, a patient who has verbally expressed an opt in decision is included as a deemed authorisation, whereas a patient who has verbally expressed an opt out decision is not included.

**The consent/authorisation rate** is the percentage of eligible donor donation decision conversations where consent/authorisation was ascertained. Note that consent/authorisation rates have not been provided where the number of families approached is less than ten.

### **13.3 Breakdown of audited deaths in ICUs and emergency departments, 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022**

In the 12-month period there were a total of 37,588 audited patient deaths in the UK. **Figures 13.1 and 13.2** show a detailed breakdown from the number of audited patient deaths to the number of solid organ donors for potential DBD and DCD donors, respectively. In total there were 1,389 solid organ donors reported through the PDA, 99.4% of the total 1,397 deceased solid organ donors.

**Table 13.1** shows the key percentages calculated from the flow chart information and **Table 13.2** provides a breakdown by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST). Consent/authorisation rates have also been provided, in **Table 13.1**, for cases where the SN-OD was/was not present for the donation decision conversation with the family and by whether there was an expressed opt in decision or consent/authorisation was deemed. Details of expressed opt in decision and deemed consent/authorisation overrides are included in the footnote of the table.

An expressed opt in decision override is a case where the family overruled their loved one's known decision to donate and includes decisions registered on the ODR, those expressed verbally (with the exception of verbal expressions in Scotland which are reported as a deemed authorisation), or those expressed via an appointed/nominated representative. A deemed consent/authorisation override is a case where the family did not support deemed consent/authorisation.

Figure 13.1 Donation after brain death

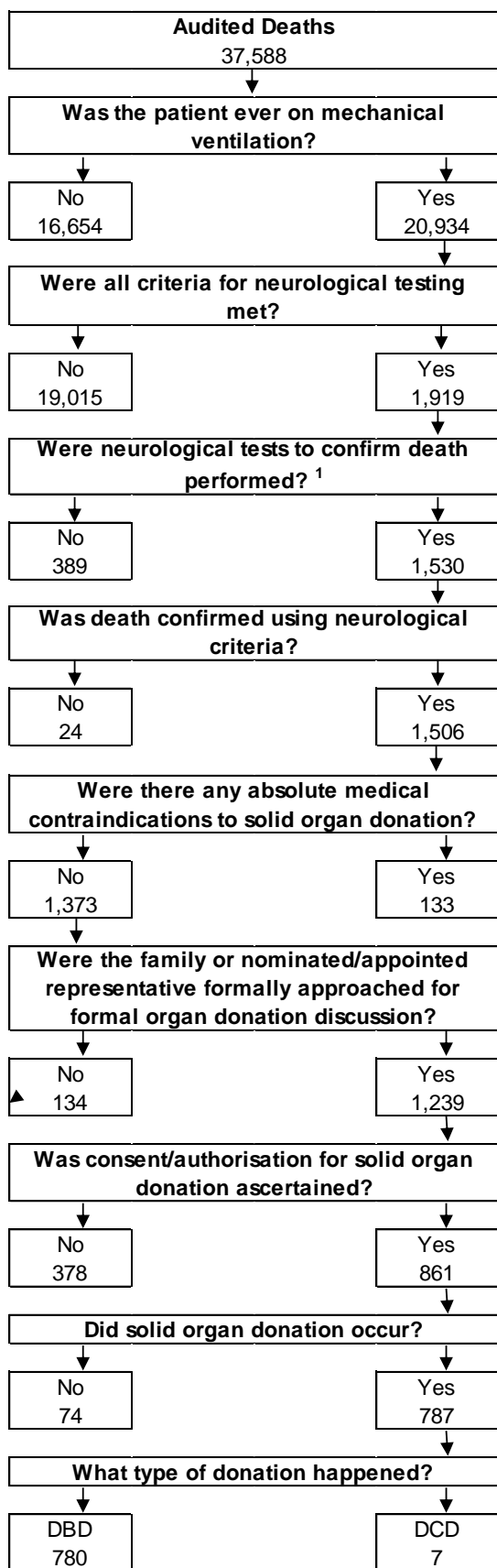
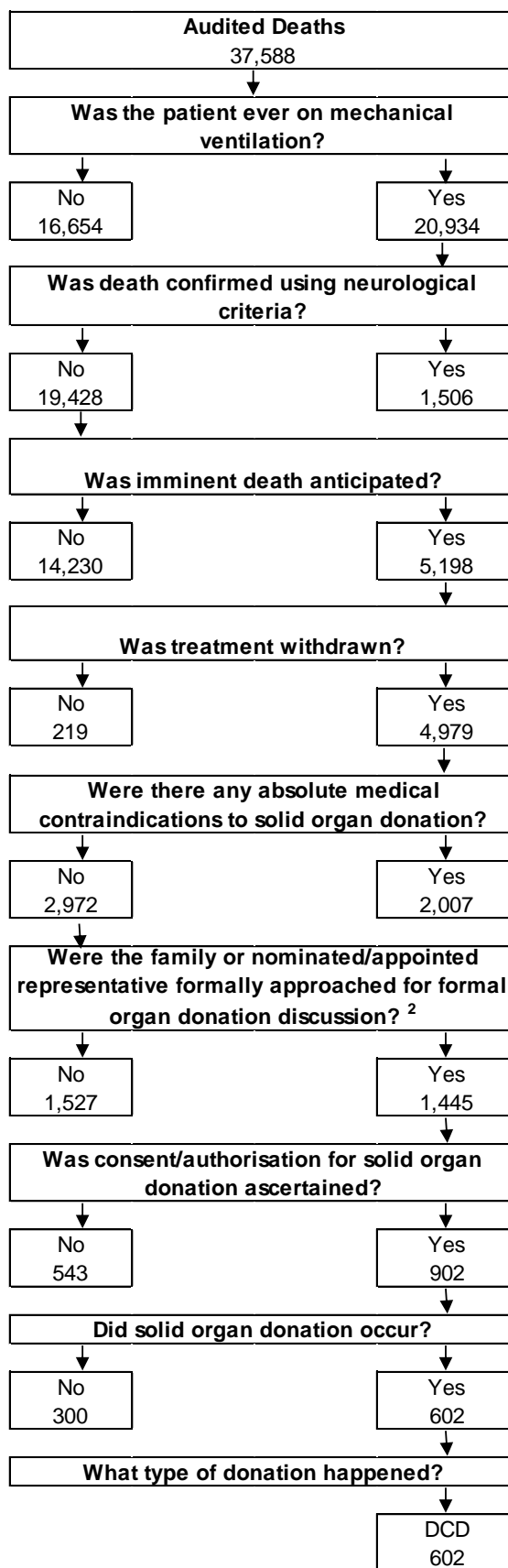


Figure 13.2 Donation after circulatory death



<sup>1</sup> Patients for whom tests were not performed due to; cardiac arrest despite resuscitation occurred or brainstem reflexes returned are excluded from the calculation of the neurological death testing rate

<sup>2</sup> A large number of DCD donors are not approached due to the DCD screening process which precludes them from solid organ donation

**Table 13.1 Summary of key percentages, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**

	DBD	DCD	ALL
Neurological death testing rate	79.7		
Referral rate	98.7	90.4	92.5
Proportion of approaches where a SN-OD was present	95.9	90.4	92.9
Consent/authorisation rate	69.5	62.4	65.7
- SN-OD present for approach	71.0	67.0	68.9
- SN-OD not present for approach	35.3	19.4	23.7
- Expressed opt in*	94.6	89.9	92.1
- Deemed consent/authorisation**	63.1	56.0	59.3
- Other***	65.5	47.2	54.6

\* 92 families overruled their loved one's expressed opt in decision to be an organ donor

\*\* There were 889 cases where deemed consent/authorisation applied and in 362 cases the family did not support deemed consent/authorisation

\*\*\* Includes patients where nation specific deemed criteria are not met and the patient has not expressed a donation decision in accordance with relevant legislation

**Table 13.2 Summary of all deceased donor key percentages by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST), 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**

ODST	Testing rate	Referral rate	SN-OD presence rate	Consent/authorisation rate
Eastern	77.2	88.6	93.3	64.3
London	80.1	90.4	95.8	59.0
Midlands	77.8	93.8	90.1	58.9
North West	72.2	87.5	94.7	64.6
Northern	85.7	97.0	92.5	69.4
Northern Ireland	73.3	99.2	98.8	76.8
Scotland	86.1	97.9	89.2	66.5
South Central	83.7	96.0	90.4	67.1
South East	83.6	90.1	92.2	68.3
South Wales	90.6	97.2	85.2	62.5
South West	81.0	97.0	93.5	76.8
Yorkshire	78.7	97.3	96.6	71.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>65.7</b>

### 13.4 Eligible donors

The number of eligible donors (as defined earlier) and rates per million population (pmp) are shown in **Table 13.3**, by NHS region. The number of actual donors pmp can be found in Table 3.2 of Chapter 3. Within NHS regions, eligible DBD ranged from 16.2 pmp in the South West to 32.8 pmp in London. Eligible DCD ranged from 37.6 pmp in the South West to 71.8 pmp in the North West.

Across the countries, there was a range of 39.7 eligible donors pmp in Scotland to 67.8 eligible donors pmp in Wales. Overall, there were 1,373 eligible DBD (20.5 pmp) and 2,972 eligible DCD (44.3 pmp) in the UK, resulting in a total of 64.8 eligible donors per million population. **Tables 13.4** and **13.5** show more detailed information by country/NHS region for DBD and DCD data, respectively.

**Table 13.3 Eligible donor rates per million population (pmp), in the UK, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by country and NHS region**

Country/ NHS region of donation	Eligible DBD		Eligible DCD		TOTAL	
	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)
North East and Yorkshire	175	(20.3)	438	(50.7)	<b>613</b>	<b>(70.9)</b>
North West	134	(18.9)	509	(71.8)	<b>643</b>	<b>(90.7)</b>
Midlands	193	(18.1)	426	(40.0)	<b>619</b>	<b>(58.1)</b>
East of England	114	(17.4)	353	(53.8)	<b>467</b>	<b>(71.2)</b>
London	295	(32.8)	348	(38.7)	<b>643</b>	<b>(71.4)</b>
South East	162	(18.1)	362	(40.5)	<b>524</b>	<b>(58.7)</b>
South West	92	(16.2)	213	(37.6)	<b>305</b>	<b>(53.8)</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>(20.6)</b>	<b>2649</b>	<b>(46.8)</b>	<b>3814</b>	<b>(67.4)</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(11.8)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(11.8)</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>(21.1)</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>(46.7)</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>(67.8)</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>(15.5)</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>(24.1)</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>(39.7)</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>(27.9)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>(22.6)</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>(50.5)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>(20.5)</b>	<b>2972</b>	<b>(44.3)</b>	<b>4345</b>	<b>(64.8)</b>

**Table 13.4 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by country and NHS region**

<b>Country/ NHS region of donation</b>	<b>Number of patients where neurological death was suspected</b>	<b>Neurological death testing rate (%)</b>	<b>DBD referral rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Percentage of DBD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>DBD consent/ authorisation rate (%)</b>
North East and Yorkshire	240	82.5	99.6	175	156	98.7	79.5
North West	214	71.5	98.1	134	116	98.3	62.1
Midlands	275	77.8	98.2	193	168	93.5	67.9
East of England	160	75.0	96.3	114	105	94.3	66.7
London	423	80.9	99.3	295	271	97.4	59.8
South East	212	83.5	98.6	162	146	95.2	76.0
South West	121	81.8	99.2	92	89	93.3	80.9
<b>England</b>	<b>1645</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>69.0</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>73.3</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>66.7</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>78.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1919</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>69.5</b>

**Table 13.5 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by country and NHS region**

<b>Country/ NHS region of donation</b>	<b>Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated</b>	<b>DCD referral rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Percentage of DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
North East and Yorkshire	808	96.3	438	200	92.0	64.0
North West	910	85.1	509	177	92.7	65.5
Midlands	644	92.7	426	242	88.8	54.1
East of England	755	86.1	353	172	90.1	64.0
London	623	86.2	348	192	92.7	56.8
South East	680	90.7	362	195	89.2	67.2
South West	305	96.4	213	104	91.3	70.2
<b>England</b>	<b>4725</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>2649</b>	<b>1282</b>	<b>90.9</b>	<b>62.2</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Wales</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>52.1</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>66.3</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>75.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5198</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>2972</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>62.4</b>



**Tables 13.6** and **13.7** show more detailed information on the key metrics by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) for DBD and DCD data, respectively. Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation (SN-ODs) work within an ODST, which covers an area of the UK. As seen in **Table 13.6**, the neurological death testing rate was highest for the South Wales team and the DBD referral rate was 100% for 3 teams. The proportion of DBD approaches where a SN-OD was present was highest for the Northern Ireland team, where a SN-OD was present for 100% of DBD approaches.

**Table 13.6 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)**

<b>ODST</b>	<b>Number of patients where neurological death was suspected</b>	<b>Neurological death testing rate (%)</b>	<b>DBD referral rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Percentage of DBD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
Eastern	202	77.2	97.0	142	131	95.4	65.6
London	311	80.1	99.0	219	203	97.5	60.6
Midlands	239	77.8	97.9	166	145	92.4	66.9
North West	241	72.2	98.3	152	132	98.5	65.2
Northern	98	85.7	100.0	73	64	98.4	78.1
Northern Ireland	75	73.3	100.0	53	50	100.0	78.0
Scotland	108	86.1	100.0	85	75	90.7	66.7
South Central	129	83.7	99.2	101	93	93.5	74.2
South East	183	83.6	98.9	134	118	96.6	70.3
South Wales	64	90.6	96.9	52	47	93.6	70.2
South West	105	81.0	99.0	79	77	93.5	81.8
Yorkshire	164	78.7	99.4	117	104	99.0	78.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1919</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>69.5</b>

**Table 13.7** indicates that for DCD patients, the highest referral rate and the highest proportion of DCD approaches for which a SN-OD was present was for the Northern Ireland team. No account has been taken of the demographics of the populations within the teams which may impact on the rates presented.

<b>Table 13.7 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>						
<b>ODST</b>	<b>Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated</b>	<b>DCD referral rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Percentage of DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
Eastern	863	86.8	394	197	91.9	63.5
London	432	85.0	255	129	93.0	56.6
Midlands	531	92.1	365	210	88.6	53.3
North West	1013	85.5	586	187	92.0	64.2
Northern	342	96.2	195	83	88.0	62.7
Northern Ireland	69	98.6	43	32	96.9	75.0
Scotland	193	96.9	132	83	88.0	66.3
South Central	467	95.3	266	135	88.1	62.2
South East	438	86.5	210	125	88.0	66.4
South Wales	119	97.5	81	41	75.6	53.7
South West	236	95.8	173	91	93.4	72.5
Yorkshire	495	96.8	272	132	94.7	65.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5198</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>2972</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>62.4</b>

**Table 13.8** shows key metrics separately for patients meeting the PDA criteria who were referred in an ICU or an emergency department (irrespective of where the patient died), for DBD and DCD, respectively. Note that the total number of patients in this table and the associated rates do not match the other tables throughout this chapter as Table 13.8 is based on the subset of patients who were referred to the ODST.

**Table 13.9** shows key metrics separately for adult and paediatric patients, for DBD and DCD, respectively. Note that of the 74 paediatric patients for whom neurological death was suspected, tests were not performed on 28 patients.

**Table 13.8 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by unit where patient referred from, for patients who met the PDA criteria and were referred**

Eligible donor type	Unit where patient was referred from	Number of patients who were referred <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Percentage of approaches where a SN-OD was present(%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>
<b>DBD</b>	Critical care	1838	80.6	1329	1201	96.2	69.6	762
	Emergency dept.	43	72.1	29	29	93.1	72.4	21
	Other	13	92.3	10	7	85.7	57.1	4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1894</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>1237</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>787</b>
<b>DCD</b>	Critical care	4592		2696	1398	91.3	63.5	594
	Emergency dept.	87		56	31	71.0	32.3	5
	Other	21		12	8	87.5	50.0	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4700</b>		<b>2764</b>	<b>1437</b>	<b>90.9</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>602</b>

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 7 DCD donors referred from critical care

**Table 13.9 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by age group**

Eligible donor type	Age group	Number of patients who met referral criteria <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Percentage of approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>
<b>DBD</b>	Adult (>=18)	1845	80.4	98.8	1329	1204	95.9	69.6	764
	Paediatric (<18)	74	62.2	97.3	44	35	94.3	65.7	23
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1919</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>787</b>
<b>DCD</b>	Adult (>=18)	4998		90.5	2815	1384	91.0	63.2	585
	Paediatric (<18)	200		89.0	157	61	75.4	44.3	17
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5198</b>		<b>90.4</b>	<b>2972</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>602</b>

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 5 DCD donors aged 18 and over and 2 donors aged under 18

### 13.5 Consent/ authorisation rates

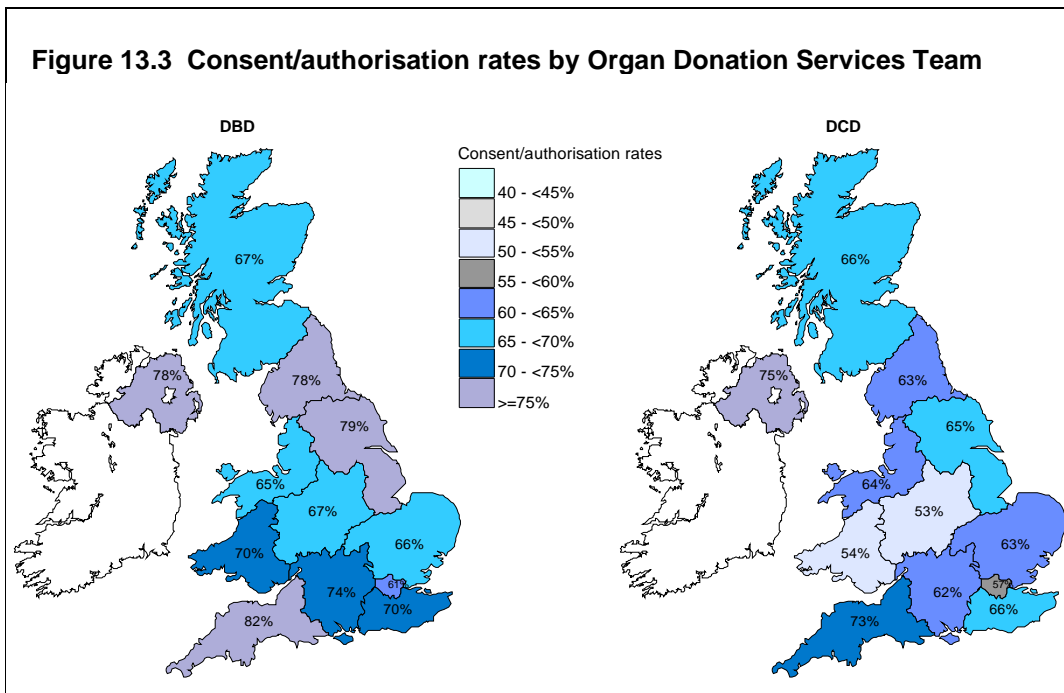
The overall DBD consent/authorisation rate was 70% and the 95% confidence limits for this percentage are 67% - 72%. For DCD, the overall rate was 62% and the 95% confidence limits are 60% - 65%.

Across the country/NHS region, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 60% in London to 81% in the South West. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 54% in the Midlands to 70% in the South West (**Tables 13.4 and 13.5**).

The overall consent/authorisation rates (combining DBD and DCD) for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were 65%, 64%, 67% and 77%, respectively.

Consent/authorisation rates by Organ Donation Services Team are illustrated in **Figure 13.3** for both DBD and DCD. Caution should be applied when interpreting these consent/authorisation rates as no adjustment has been made for the mix of patients in terms of age, prior opt in decision and ethnicity.

Across the Organ Donation Services Teams, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 61% in the London team to 82% in the South West team. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 53% in the Midlands team to 75% in the Northern Ireland team.



**Table 13.10** shows the consent/authorisation rate separately for white patients and patients from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities. The national DBD consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from BAME communities were 75% and 42%, respectively. A smaller, but still significant, difference was observed for DCD consent/authorisation rates: 66% and 32%, respectively. Note that there were an additional 12 DBD and 18 DCD families approached where the ethnicity was not known or not reported.

The Northern, Northern Ireland, Scotland and South West teams each accounted for only 2% or less where patients from BAME communities' families were approached for a decision about organ donation, whereas London accounted for 37%. Most teams had a very small proportion, therefore accounting for some of the variation observed in overall consent/authorisation rates between teams. Note that consent/authorisation rates have not been provided where the number of families approached is less than ten.

<b>Table 13.10 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) and ethnicity</b>											
<b>ODST</b>	<b>White eligible donors</b>					<b>Eligible donors from BAME<sup>1</sup> communities</b>					<b>All</b>
	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)<sup>2</sup></b>
Eastern	109	69.7	182	67.0	<b>68.0</b>	20	50.0	13	23.1	<b>39.4</b>	<b>64.3</b>
London	123	74.8	82	73.2	<b>74.1</b>	79	38.0	45	28.9	<b>34.7</b>	<b>59.0</b>
Midlands	114	73.7	184	57.1	<b>63.4</b>	31	41.9	26	26.9	<b>35.1</b>	<b>58.9</b>
North West	114	69.3	179	65.4	<b>66.9</b>	17	35.3	7	-	<b>37.5</b>	<b>64.6</b>
Northern	61	80.3	78	64.1	<b>71.2</b>	3	-	5	-	<b>37.5</b>	<b>69.4</b>
Northern Ireland	48	77.1	32	75.0	<b>76.3</b>	2	-	0	-	<b>100.0</b>	<b>76.8</b>
Scotland	72	66.7	76	69.7	<b>68.2</b>	1	-	2	-	<b>33.3</b>	<b>66.5</b>
South Central	85	75.3	125	63.2	<b>68.1</b>	7	-	9	-	<b>56.3</b>	<b>67.1</b>
South East	93	78.5	113	70.8	<b>74.3</b>	25	40.0	11	27.3	<b>36.1</b>	<b>68.3</b>
South Wales	39	79.5	33	60.6	<b>70.8</b>	5	-	5	-	<b>30.0</b>	<b>62.5</b>
South West	75	82.7	85	74.1	<b>78.1</b>	1	-	3	-	<b>75.0</b>	<b>76.8</b>
Yorkshire	94	80.9	125	67.2	<b>73.1</b>	9	-	7	-	<b>43.8</b>	<b>71.2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1027</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>65.7</b>

<sup>1</sup>BAME = Black, Asian and minority ethnic  
<sup>2</sup>Includes 30 families approached where the ethnicity was not known or not reported

**Table 13.11** shows the reasons why the family did not give consent/authorisation, by donor type. The most common reason reported for why the families of both eligible DBD and DCD families did not give consent/authorisation was that the patient had previously expressed a decision not to donate. Overall, this reason was reported in 30% of cases.

<b>Table 13.11 Reasons why the family did not support organ donation, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by donor type</b>						
<b>Primary reason why family did not support organ donation</b>	<b>Donor type</b>				<b>Total</b>	
	<b>DBD</b>		<b>DCD</b>		<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Patient had registered a decision to Opt Out	23	6.1	20	3.7	43	4.7
Patient had previously expressed a wish not to donate	125	33.1	148	27.3	273	29.6
Family were not sure whether the patient would have agreed to donation	35	9.3	64	11.8	99	10.7
Family did not believe in donation	10	2.6	13	2.4	23	2.5
Family felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs	39	10.3	24	4.4	63	6.8
Family divided over the decision	13	3.4	11	2.0	24	2.6
Family felt patient had suffered enough	26	6.9	42	7.7	68	7.4
Family did not want surgery to the body	35	9.3	46	8.5	81	8.8
Family wanted to stay with the patient after death	2	0.5	5	0.9	7	0.8
Family had difficulty understanding/accepting neurological testing	2	0.5	0	-	2	0.2
Family felt the length of time for the donation process was too long	15	4.0	85	15.7	100	10.9
Family concerned other people may disapprove/be offended	3	0.8	1	0.2	4	0.4
Family felt that the body should be buried whole (unrelated to religious/cultural reasons)	16	4.2	9	1.7	25	2.7
Family concerned that organs may not be transplantable	1	0.3	4	0.7	5	0.5
Family concerned donation may delay the funeral	0	-	2	0.4	2	0.2
Strong refusal - probing not appropriate	13	3.4	23	4.2	36	3.9
Other	20	5.3	46	8.5	66	7.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>100</b>

### 13.6 Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD) presence

**Table 13.12** shows the proportion of family approaches where a SN-OD was present, for DBD and DCD separately, and overall. Nationally, 96% of DBD and 90% of DCD family approaches had a SN-OD present. There is some variation between teams in the percentage of DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present, however SN-OD presence rates are good across all teams for DBD approaches.

<b>Table 13.12 Percentage of family approaches for which a Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD) was present from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>							
<b>ODST</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors where SN-OD present for approach</b>	<b>Percentage of DBD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors where SN-OD present for approach</b>	<b>Percentage of DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>	<b>Overall percentage of DBD/DCD approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)</b>
Eastern	131	125	95.4	197	181	91.9	<b>93.3</b>
London	203	198	97.5	129	120	93.0	<b>95.8</b>
Midlands	145	134	92.4	210	186	88.6	<b>90.1</b>
North West	132	130	98.5	187	172	92.0	<b>94.7</b>
Northern	64	63	98.4	83	73	88.0	<b>92.5</b>
Northern Ireland	50	50	100.0	32	31	96.9	<b>98.8</b>
Scotland	75	68	90.7	83	73	88.0	<b>89.2</b>
South Central	93	87	93.5	135	119	88.1	<b>90.4</b>
South East	118	114	96.6	125	110	88.0	<b>92.2</b>
South Wales	47	44	93.6	41	31	75.6	<b>85.2</b>
South West	77	72	93.5	91	85	93.4	<b>93.5</b>
Yorkshire	104	103	99.0	132	125	94.7	<b>96.6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>1188</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>1306</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>92.9</b>



**Table 13.13** shows the effect on the consent/authorisation rate when a SN-OD is present or not present for the approach to a family for a formal organ donation discussion. Evidence shows that the family is more likely to support organ donation when a trained SN-OD is present for the approach, and this is particularly apparent for eligible DCD donors. Again, there is wide variation between teams.

Caution should be applied when interpreting these rates as numbers of approaches are very small where a SN-OD is not present and no account has been taken of approaches initiated by the family, a patient's prior opt in decision or ethnicity.

<b>Table 13.13 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates with/without a SN-OD present from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>											
<b>ODST</b>	<b>SN-OD present for approach</b>					<b>SN-OD not present for approach</b>					<b>All</b>
	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
Eastern	125	65.6	181	65.7	<b>65.7</b>	6	66.7	16	37.5	<b>45.5</b>	<b>64.3</b>
London	198	61.1	120	60.0	<b>60.7</b>	5	40.0	9	11.1	<b>21.4</b>	<b>59.0</b>
Midlands	134	70.1	186	57.0	<b>62.5</b>	11	27.3	24	25.0	<b>25.7</b>	<b>58.9</b>
North West	130	66.2	172	69.2	<b>67.9</b>	2	0.0	15	6.7	<b>5.9</b>	<b>64.6</b>
Northern	63	79.4	73	71.2	<b>75.0</b>	1	0.0	10	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	<b>69.4</b>
Northern Ireland	50	78.0	31	77.4	<b>77.8</b>	0		1	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	<b>76.8</b>
Scotland	68	70.6	73	74.0	<b>72.3</b>	7	28.6	10	10.0	<b>17.6</b>	<b>66.5</b>
South Central	87	77.0	119	68.9	<b>72.3</b>	6	33.3	16	12.5	<b>18.2</b>	<b>67.1</b>
South East	114	71.1	110	70.9	<b>71.0</b>	4	50.0	15	33.3	<b>36.8</b>	<b>68.3</b>
South Wales	44	75.0	31	64.5	<b>70.7</b>	3	0.0	10	20.0	<b>15.4</b>	<b>62.5</b>
South West	72	83.3	85	76.5	<b>79.6</b>	5	60.0	6	16.7	<b>36.4</b>	<b>76.8</b>
Yorkshire	103	79.6	125	67.2	<b>72.8</b>	1	0.0	7	28.6	<b>25.0</b>	<b>71.2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1188</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>1306</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>65.7</b>

## 13.7 Comparison with previous years

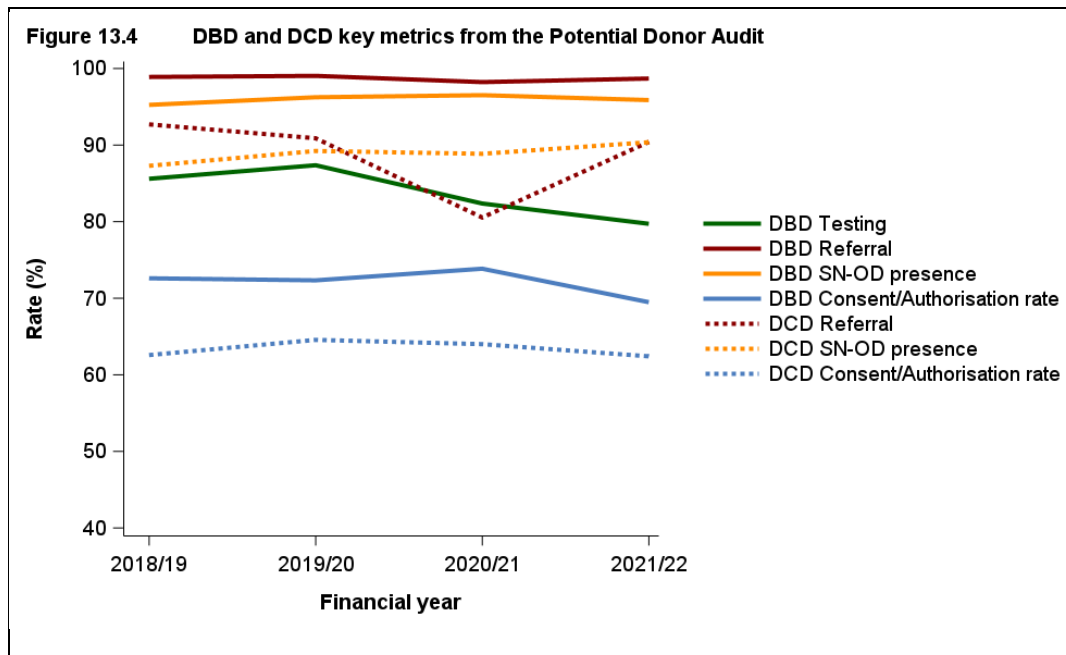
Table 13.14 and Figure 13.4 show the key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit (PDA) for the last four financial years.

Table 13.14 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, by financial year										
Eligible donor type	Financial year	Number of patients who met referral criteria <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Proportion of family approaches where a SN-OD was present (%)	Number of families who consented to/ authorised donation	Consent/ authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>
DBD	2018-2019	2008	85.6	98.9	1639	1497	95.3	1087	72.6	976
	2019-2020	1996	87.4	99.0	1658	1468	96.3	1062	72.3	946
	2020-2021	1810	82.4	98.2	1353	1209	96.5	893	73.9	779
	2021-2022	1919	79.7	98.7	1373	1239	95.9	861	69.5	787
DCD	2018-2019	5982		92.7	4186	1756	87.3	1099	62.6	612
	2019-2020	6296		90.9	4349	1812	89.2	1170	64.6	621
	2020-2021	5938		80.5	2851	1042	88.9	667	64.0	402
	2021-2022	5198		90.4	2972	1445	90.4	902	62.4	602
TOTAL	2018-2019	7739		94.3	5825	3253	91.0	2186	67.2	1588
	2019-2020	8079		92.8	6007	3280	92.4	2232	68.0	1568
	2020-2021	7465		84.4	4204	2251	93.0	1560	69.3	1182
	2021-2022	6767		92.5	4345	2684	92.9	1763	65.7	1389

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected (excluding those for which cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation or brain stem reflexes returned); DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 24 DCD donors in 2018-2019, 10 DCD donors in 2019-2020, 12 DCD donors in 2020-2021 and 7 DCD donors in 2021/22

DBD referral rates have remained unchanged, with DCD referral rates falling slightly in 2019/20 and 2020/21. The DCD referral rate has increased in 2021/22. Increases have been observed in the proportion of approaches where a SN-OD was present. The consent/authorisation rate for DCD has remained unchanged whereas the DBD rate has fallen slightly.



### 13.8 Consented/authorised cases not proceeding to solid organ donation

Consent/authorisation for donation was ascertained for 861 eligible DBD donors and 902 eligible DCD donors; 787 (91%) and 602 (67%) of these cases proceeded to donate at least one solid organ, respectively. **Table 13.15** shows the reasons why donation did not proceed for the 74 eligible DBD and 300 eligible DCD cases where consent/authorisation was ascertained. The main reason reported for consented/authorised eligible DBD donors not proceeding to donate was that the organs were deemed to be medically unsuitable by transplant centres. The main reason for consented/authorised DCD donors was prolonged time to asystole, meaning that the donor did not die in a timeframe suitable for organ donation.

**Table 13.15 Reasons why consented/authorised eligible donors did not proceed to donate, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, by donor type**

Primary reason why donation did not proceed	Donor type					
	DBD		DCD		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Clinical - Absolute contraindication to organ donation	4	5.4	6	2.0	10	2.7
Clinical - No transplantable organ	5	6.8	21	7.0	26	7.0
Clinical - Patient's general medical condition	0	-	6	2.0	6	1.6
Clinical - Patient actively dying	6	8.1	14	4.7	20	5.3
Clinical - Considered high risk donor	3	4.1	5	1.7	8	2.1
Clinical - PTA post WLST	0	-	135	45.0	135	36.1
Clinical - Organs deemed medically unsuitable by recipient centres	25	33.8	70	23.3	95	25.4
Clinical - Organs deemed medically unsuitable on surgical inspection	8	10.8	4	1.3	12	3.2
Clinical - Positive virology	3	4.1	5	1.7	8	2.1
Clinical - Other	3	4.1	10	3.3	13	3.5
Consent / Auth - Coroner/Procurator fiscal refusal	11	14.9	11	3.7	22	5.9
Consent / Auth - Known wish not to donate	1	1.4	1	0.3	2	0.5
Consent / Auth - NOK withdraw consent / authorisation	5	6.8	8	2.7	13	3.5
Consent / Auth - Other	0	-	2	0.7	2	0.5
Logistical - No critical care bed available	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3
Logistical - Other	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>100</b>