



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

NHSBT BOARD – MARCH 2024

UPDATE FROM THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

1. Organ donation and transplantation position – Wales

We have noted a decrease in both organ donors opting in and out on the ODR in Wales in 2023/24.

- 53 proceeding donors YTD.
- Slight reduction observed in the donor pool (-21 on this time last year, there's no theme identified to explain this reduction).
- Consistently high referral rates (95-99%).
- Combined consent rate is 53%
- For South Wales, we manually adjust consent rates to remove those patients who registered a decision to OPT out. YTD in South Wales 19% of potential organ donors made a decision to opt out.
- When the registered opt outs are removed the adjusted consent rate is 64%.

2. Welsh Transplant Advisory Group – WTAG

In 2023, the NHS Executive was set up in Wales with a purpose of supporting national delivery of the strategic intentions of the NHS in Wales. It has been agreed that WTAG will sit within the Critical Care Trauma and Emergency Medicine Clinical Strategic Network and will be clinically led/chaired. The group will transition to a 'Clinical Reference Group' in order to take forward the recommendations within our national action plan.

WTAG held a meeting on 13 February 2024. The main topic on the agenda was the Transition arrangements of the group to National Executive:

- Agreeing principles
- Leadership
- Membership
- Next steps

Their priority will be to focus on the delivery of Welsh Plan 2022-2026.

3. Update from Welsh Blood Service (WBS)

Policy officials are working with WBS to agree the business case for Plasma for Medicines Project and forward to the Minister for Health & Social Services for approval.

This maybe slightly delayed as we await the outcome of the leadership election and possible Ministerial re-shuffle.

4. New First Minister

Vaughan Gething MS has become the new Labour leader in Wales and due to assume the role of First Minister. Vaughan was previously the Minister for Health and Social Services in Wales. As of 19th March, we are awaiting to see if any changes are made to the Ministerial roles as a consequence.

5. Future events

Organ Donation Week 2024 – to raise awareness of organ donation and transplantation, all four nations will take part in a walk-up famous mountains on 27 September.

- Wales - South Wales Team - Pen y Fan. North Wales Team – Y Wyddfa (Snowdon)
- North-West England - Scafell Pike.
- Northern Ireland – Slieve Donard
- Scotland – Ben Nevis