Regional contribution to the 50% increase in UK organ donation

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Background
In 2008 the Organ Donor Taskforce, supported by all four UK health departments, published 14 recommendations with the intention of increasing organ donation by 50% over five years. On 31 March 2013 the five years concluded: 1,212 donors between 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, from a baseline 809 donors. This represented a 49.8% increase in organ donation and graciously this was rounded up to 50%.

However, considerable regional variation in achieving the 50% goal was believed to exist.

Methods
NHSBT statistics were investigated on an Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) region by region basis, to ascertain which regions achieved a 50% increase and what contribution to the overall 50% goal each region made.

Results
Five of the UK 12 regions achieved a 50% increase in donation over five years: Eastern (148.4%), Midlands (87.5%), Northern Ireland (81.8%), Scotland (74.1%) and Northern (50.8%). Only one region (Eastern) achieved a 50% increase in Donation after Brainstem Death (DBD) while five regions saw at least a 50% growth in Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD). Only one region (Eastern) achieved a 50% increase in Donation after Brainstem Death (DBD) while five regions saw at least a 50% growth in Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD). UK rise in DCD was 153.5%, which contributed 76.2% of the rise which allowed the UK to achieve the 50% goal.

Contribution to 50% by Donor Team

Discussion
Considerable regional variation persists and it seems likely that there still remains considerable potential to increase the donors per million population in the UK.