

National Potential Donor Audit

Key messages

- There were 38,086 audited deaths reported through the Potential Donor Audit in the financial year to 31 March 2024, including 1,498 (99.2%) of the 1,510 deceased organ donors.
- Compared to the previous financial year, the overall referral rate of potential donors has remained high, 94% in both 2022/23 and 2023/24. The proportion of donation decision conversations where a Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation was present has remained at 93%, however the overall consent/authorisation rate has decreased in 2023/24, from 62% to 61%.
- The consent/authorisation rate was 89% when a patient had expressed an opt in decision, but 140 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 ethnic minority groups (65% and 32% respectively).

13.1 Introduction

In this chapter, summary data from the National Potential Donor Audit (PDA) are shown for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 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 8 May 2024. **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Eligible donors after circulatory death (DCD) are defined as patients who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated, with no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.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/32650/pol188.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.

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

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).

Donation decision conversation is where the family of eligible donors are asked to make or support patient's organ donation decision, this includes clarifying an opt out decision.

SN-OD presence rate 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, Jersey or Guernsey 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 for longer than 12 months and is ordinarily resident in the country in which they died, 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 for longer than 12 months and is ordinarily resident in Scotland, 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.

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 donation decision conversations is less than ten.

13.3 Breakdown of audited deaths in ICUs and emergency departments, 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

In the 12-month period there were a total of 36,086 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 1,498 solid organ donors reported through the PDA, 99.2% of the total 1,510 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 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, or 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

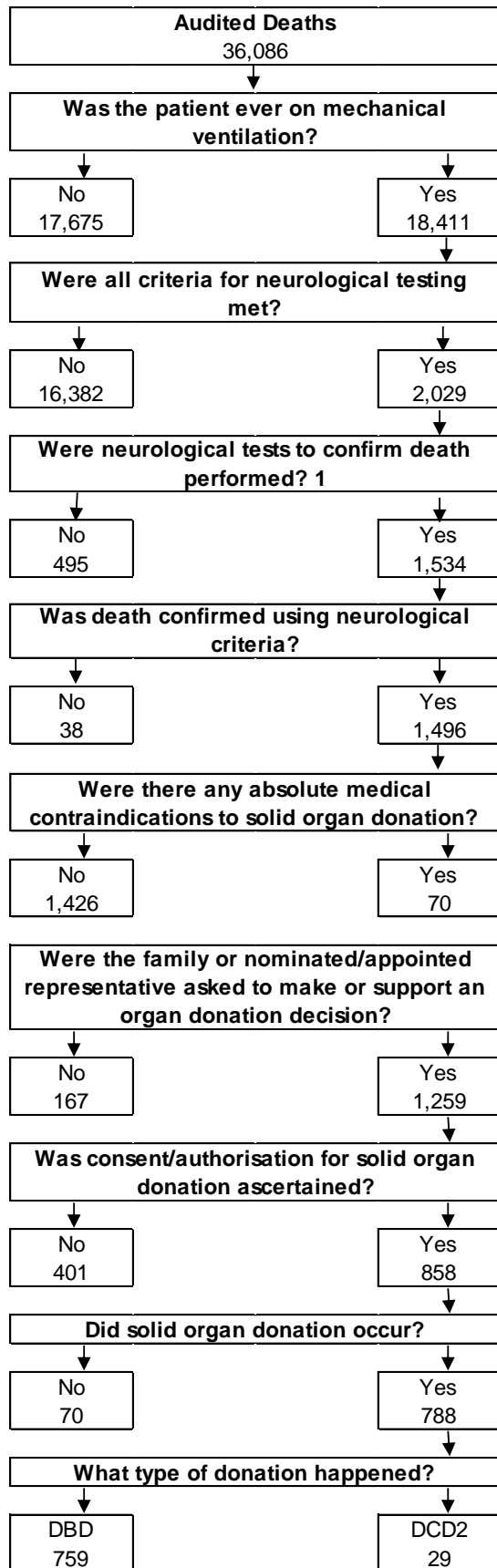
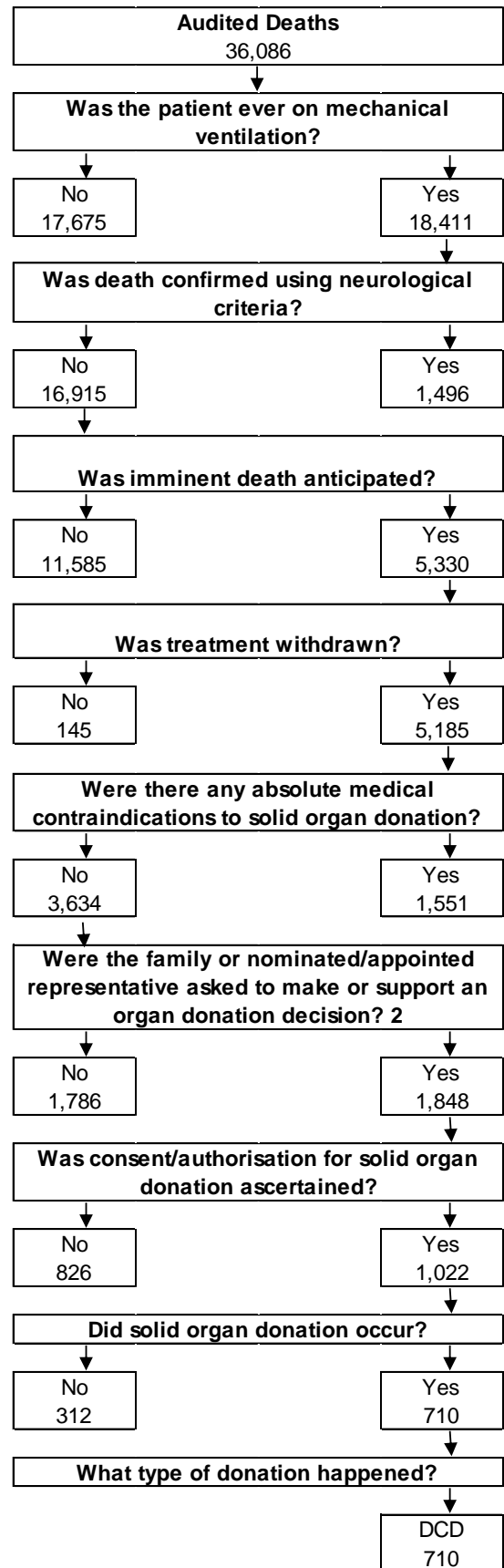


Figure 13.2 Donation after circulatory death



1 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

2 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 2023 to 31 March 2024

	DBD	DCD	ALL
Neurological death testing rate	75.6		
Referral rate	99.4	92.8	94.4
SN-OD presence rate	96.5	90.4	92.9
Consent/authorisation rate	68.1	55.3	60.5
- SN-OD present for donation decision conversation	69.8	59.7	64.0
- SN-OD not present for donation decision conversation	22.7	13.6	15.4
- Expressed opt in*	95.3	84.8	89.3
- Deemed consent/authorisation**	58.2	47.1	51.3
- Other***	52.0	34.4	42.3

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

** There were 1109 cases where deemed consent/authorisation applied and in 540 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 2023 to 31 March 2024

ODST	Testing rate	Referral rate	SN-OD presence rate	Consent/authorisation rate
Eastern	68.9	92.8	93.0	56.2
London	79.1	92.2	93.4	52.4
Midlands	75.3	92.9	91.9	53.0
North West	76.7	93.8	95.2	64.7
Northern	82.7	98.7	95.5	65.0
Northern Ireland	76.5	97.6	97.3	66.4
Scotland	79.0	97.8	88.2	61.0
South Central	76.8	93.3	92.2	63.5
South East	74.0	91.0	95.7	66.3
South Wales	81.8	97.5	81.9	52.6
South West	71.4	95.9	94.5	76.4
Yorkshire	70.3	98.4	92.6	60.5
TOTAL	75.6	94.4	92.9	60.5

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. Eligible DBD ranged from 15.9 pmp in the East of England to 32.5 pmp in London. Eligible DCD ranged from 43.8 pmp in the South West to 63.0 pmp in the North West.

Across the countries, there was a range of 55.8 eligible donors pmp in Scotland to 76.7 eligible donors pmp in England. Overall, there were 1,426 eligible DBD (21.1 pmp) and 3,634 eligible DCD (53.8 pmp) in the UK, resulting in a total of 74.9 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 2023 to 31 March 2024, 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	197	(24.0)	501	(60.9)	698	(84.9)
North West	145	(19.3)	474	(63.0)	619	(82.3)
Midlands	208	(19.0)	552	(50.4)	760	(69.3)
East of England	102	(15.9)	397	(62.0)	499	(78.0)
London	288	(32.5)	524	(59.1)	812	(91.5)
South East	152	(16.2)	488	(52.0)	640	(68.2)
South West	102	(17.7)	252	(43.8)	354	(61.5)
England	1194	(20.9)	3188	(55.8)	4382	(76.7)
Isle of Man	2	(25.0)	3	(37.5)	5	(62.5)
Channel Islands	1	(5.9)	1	(5.9)	2	(11.8)
Wales	67	(21.4)	172	(55.0)	239	(76.4)
Scotland	105	(19.3)	199	(36.5)	304	(55.8)
Northern Ireland	57	(29.8)	71	(37.2)	128	(67.0)
TOTAL	1426	(21.1)	3634	(53.8)	5060	(74.9)

Table 13.4 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by country and NHS region

Country/ NHS region of donation	Number of patients where neurological death was suspected	Neurological death testing rate (%)	DBD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donors	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD SN-OD presence rate (%)	DBD consent/ authorisation rate (%)
North East and Yorkshire	289	73.7	99.7	197	173	96.0	71.7
North West	207	75.8	100.0	145	110	97.3	71.8
Midlands	285	77.9	99.6	208	183	95.6	60.1
East of England	158	68.4	96.8	102	96	97.9	68.8
London	407	77.1	99.8	288	243	97.5	56.4
South East	222	74.3	99.5	152	143	99.3	76.9
South West	146	72.6	100.0	102	96	96.9	86.5
England	1714	75.0	99.5	1194	1044	97.1	67.9
Isle of Man	2	100.0	100.0	2	1	100.0	100.0
Channel Islands	2	50.0	100.0	1	1	100.0	100.0
Wales	87	81.6	98.9	67	63	90.5	63.5
Scotland	143	79.0	99.3	105	95	92.6	73.7
Northern Ireland	81	76.5	98.8	57	55	98.2	67.3
TOTAL	2029	75.6	99.4	1426	1259	96.5	68.1

Table 13.5 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by country and NHS region

Country/ NHS region of donation	Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated	DCD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donors	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD SN-OD presence rate (%)	DCD consent/ authorisation rate (%)
North East and Yorkshire	847	98.1	501	253	93.3	59.7
North West	765	92.7	474	159	93.1	57.2
Midlands	770	91.6	552	310	89.7	47.7
East of England	662	92.0	397	222	90.5	54.1
London	698	90.4	524	265	90.6	49.8
South East	707	87.7	488	234	89.7	59.8
South West	310	94.8	252	149	93.3	68.5
England	4759	92.4	3188	1592	91.2	55.5
Isle of Man	3	100.0	3	0		
Channel Islands	5	100.0	1	1	100.0	0.0
Wales	215	94.9	172	67	77.6	49.3
Scotland	254	97.2	199	133	85.0	51.9
Northern Ireland	94	95.7	71	55	96.4	65.5
TOTAL	5330	92.8	3634	1848	90.4	55.3

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 Northern team and the DBD referral rate was 100% for 4 teams. The SN-OD presence rate was highest for the South East team, where a SNOD was present for 99.1% of DBD donation decision conversations.

Table 13.6 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)

ODST	Number of patients where neurological death was suspected	Neurological death testing rate (%)	DBD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donors	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD SN-OD presence rate (%)	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)
Eastern	193	68.9	97.4	126	115	98.3	64.3
London	292	79.1	99.7	211	181	97.2	55.8
Midlands	243	75.3	99.6	172	151	95.4	61.6
North West	227	76.7	100.0	160	124	97.6	73.4
Northern	110	82.7	99.1	84	75	97.3	72.0
Northern Ireland	81	76.5	98.8	57	55	98.2	67.3
Scotland	143	79.0	99.3	105	95	92.6	73.7
South Central	142	76.8	100.0	100	96	99.0	77.1
South East	196	74.0	99.5	133	116	99.1	71.6
South Wales	77	81.8	98.7	60	54	88.9	59.3
South West	133	71.4	100.0	92	87	96.6	86.2
Yorkshire	192	70.3	100.0	126	110	94.5	67.3
TOTAL	2029	75.6	99.4	1426	1259	96.5	68.1

Table 13.7 indicates that for DCD patients, the highest referral rate was 98.7% for the Northern team and the highest proportion of DCD donation decision conversations for which a SN-OD was present was 96.4% 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.

Table 13.7 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)						
ODST	Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated	DCD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donors	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD SN-OD presence rate (%)	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)
Eastern	750	91.9	460	255	90.6	52.5
London	474	88.6	360	180	89.4	48.9
Midlands	686	91.1	499	281	90.0	48.4
North West	857	92.5	547	168	93.5	58.3
Northern	311	98.7	220	102	94.1	59.8
Northern Ireland	94	95.7	71	55	96.4	65.5
Scotland	254	97.2	199	133	85.0	51.9
South Central	417	91.6	296	134	87.3	53.7
South East	524	88.4	366	184	93.5	63.0
South Wales	135	96.3	109	62	75.8	46.8
South West	258	94.2	211	133	93.2	69.9
Yorkshire	570	98.1	296	161	91.3	55.9
TOTAL	5330	92.8	3634	1848	90.4	55.3

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 106 paediatric patients for whom neurological death was suspected, tests were not performed on 34 patients.

Table 13.8 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, 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 ¹	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donor donation decision conversations	SN-OD presence rate (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors ²
DBD	Critical care	1975	76.3	1404	1240	96.5	68.1	777
	Emergency dept.	30	56.7	15	14	100.0	71.4	8
	Other	12	58.3	6	5	80.0	80.0	3
	TOTAL	2017	75.9	1425	1259	96.5	68.1	788
DCD	Critical care	4824		3315	1788	91.2	55.8	694
	Emergency dept.	94		68	43	79.1	39.5	12
	Other	30		23	9	77.8	77.8	4
	TOTAL	4948		3406	1840	90.8	55.5	710

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

² Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 27 DCD donors referred from critical care and

2 DCD donors referred from emergency departments

Table 13.9 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by age group

Eligible donor type	Age group	Number of patients who met referral criteria ¹	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donor donation decision conversations	SN-OD presence rate (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors ²
DBD	Adult (>=18)	1923	76.0	99.4	1360	1202	96.8	68.6	757
	Paediatric (<18)	106	67.9	99.1	66	57	89.5	57.9	31
	TOTAL	2029	75.6	99.4	1426	1259	96.5	68.1	788
DCD	Adult (>=18)	5127		92.7	3473	1794	91.1	56.5	702
	Paediatric (<18)	203		95.6	161	54	66.7	16.7	8
	TOTAL	5330		92.8	3634	1848	90.4	55.3	710

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

² Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 3 DCD donors under 18 and 26 DCD donors aged 18 and over

13.5 Consent/ authorisation rates

The overall DBD consent/authorisation rate was 68% and the 95% confidence limits for this percentage are 66% - 71%. For DCD, the overall rate was 55% and the 95% confidence limits are 53% - 58%.

Across the country/NHS region, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 56% in London to 87% in the South West. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 48% in the Midlands to 69% 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 60%, 56%, 61% and 66% 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 56% in the London team to 86% in the South West team. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 47% in the South Wales team to 70% in the South West team.

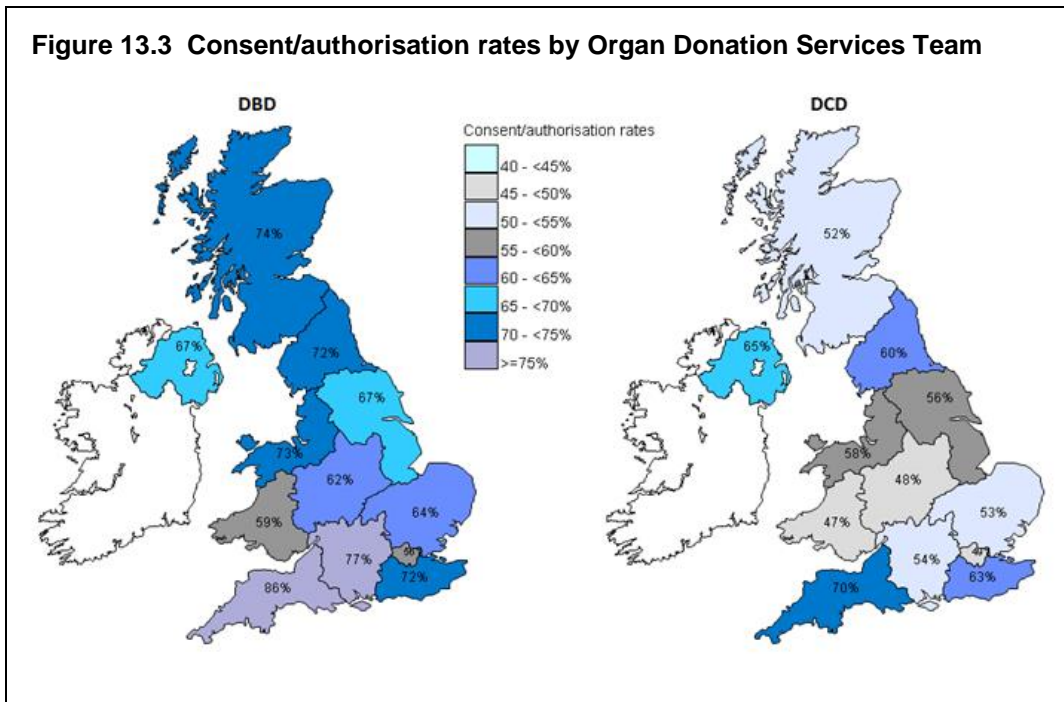


Table 13.10 shows the consent/authorisation rate separately for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups. The national DBD consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups were 75% and 34%, respectively. A similar difference was observed for DCD consent/authorisation rates: 58% and 30%, respectively. Overall consent/authorisation rates were 32% for ethnic minority patients, and 65% for white patients. Note that there were an additional 33 DCD donation decision conversations where the ethnicity was not known or not reported.

The Northern, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Wales, and South West teams each accounted for only 2% or less donation decision conversations where patients are from ethnic minority groups, whereas London accounted for 35%. 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 donation decision conversations is less than ten.

Table 13.10 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) and ethnicity

ODST	White eligible donors					Eligible donors from ethnic minority groups					All
	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%) ¹
Eastern	99	68.7	231	54.5	58.8	15	33.3	22	36.4	35.1	56.2
London	103	74.8	125	58.4	65.8	73	28.8	49	28.6	28.7	52.4
Midlands	118	64.4	251	51.0	55.3	32	53.1	28	28.6	41.7	53.0
North West	111	80.2	156	61.5	69.3	13	15.4	9	-	18.2	64.7
Northern	72	72.2	101	60.4	65.3	3	-	1	-	-	65.0
Northern Ireland	53	67.9	55	65.5	66.7	2	-	0	-	-	66.4
Scotland	86	75.6	125	52.8	62.1	6	-	2	-	-	61.0
South Central	83	83.1	123	56.1	67.0	13	38.5	11	27.3	33.3	63.5
South East	94	81.9	164	64.6	70.9	22	27.3	20	50.0	38.1	66.3
South Wales	48	64.6	61	47.5	55.0	6	-	1	-	-	52.6
South West	81	86.4	127	73.2	78.4	6	-	4	-	50.0	76.4
Yorkshire	101	72.3	153	58.2	63.8	9	-	6	-	6.7	60.5
TOTAL	1049	74.6	1672	58.1	64.5	200	34.0	153	30.1	32.3	60.5

¹ Includes 33 donation decision conversations 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 21% of cases. In DCD donation, families also commonly cited the long length of the donation process as the reason for not supporting organ donation, accounting for a further 20% of DCD cases.

Table 13.11 Reasons why the family did not support organ donation, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by donor type

Primary reason why family did not support organ donation	Donor type					
	DBD		DCD		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Patient had registered a decision to Opt Out	21	5.2	43	5.2	64	5.2
Patient had previously expressed a wish not to donate	94	23.4	167	20.2	261	21.3
Family were not sure whether the patient would have agreed to donation	49	12.2	113	13.7	162	13.2
Family did not believe in donation	5	1.2	9	1.1	14	1.1
Family felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs	49	12.2	28	3.4	77	6.3
Family divided over the decision	12	3.0	20	2.4	32	2.6
Family felt patient had suffered enough	24	6.0	78	9.4	102	8.3
Family did not want surgery to the body	42	10.5	57	6.9	99	8.1
Family wanted to stay with the patient after death	5	1.2	17	2.1	22	1.8
Family had difficulty understanding/accepting neurological testing	3	0.7	0	0.0	3	0.2
Family felt the length of time for the donation process was too long	30	7.5	167	20.2	197	16.1
Family concerned other people may disapprove/be offended	3	0.7	4	0.5	7	0.6
Family felt that the body should be buried whole (unrelated to religious/cultural reasons)	13	3.2	17	2.1	30	2.4
Family believe patient's treatment may have been limited to facilitate organ donation	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
Family concerned that organs may not be transplantable	2	0.5	8	1.0	10	0.8
Strong refusal - probing not appropriate	25	6.2	39	4.7	64	5.2
Other	24	6.0	57	6.9	81	6.6
Missing	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
TOTAL	401	100	826	100	1227	100

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

Table 13.12 shows the proportion of donation decision conversations where a SN-OD was present, for DBD and DCD separately, and overall. Nationally, 97% of DBD and 90% of DCD donation decision conversation had a SN-OD present. There is some variation between teams in the percentage of DCD donation decision conversations where a SN-OD was present, however SN-OD presence rates are good across all teams for DBD donation decision conversations.

Table 13.12 Donation decision conversations where a Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD) was present from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)							
ODST	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations where SN-OD present	DBD SN-OD presence rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations where SN-OD present	DCD SN-OD presence rate (%)	Overall SN-OD presence rate (%)
Eastern	115	113	98.3	255	231	90.6	93.0
London	181	176	97.2	180	161	89.4	93.4
Midlands	151	144	95.4	281	253	90.0	91.9
North West	124	121	97.6	168	157	93.5	95.2
Northern	75	73	97.3	102	96	94.1	95.5
Northern Ireland	55	54	98.2	55	53	96.4	97.3
Scotland	95	88	92.6	133	113	85.0	88.2
South Central	96	95	99.0	134	117	87.3	92.2
South East	116	115	99.1	184	172	93.5	95.7
South Wales	54	48	88.9	62	47	75.8	81.9
South West	87	84	96.6	133	124	93.2	94.5
Yorkshire	110	104	94.5	161	147	91.3	92.6
TOTAL	1259	1215	96.5	1848	1671	90.4	92.9

Table 13.13 shows the effect on the consent/authorisation rate when a SN-OD is present or not present for the donation decision conversation. Evidence shows that the family is more likely to support organ donation when a trained SN-OD is present for the donation decision conversation, 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 donation decision conversations are very small where a SN-OD is not present and no account has been taken of donation decisions which were initiated by the family, a patient's prior opt in decision or ethnicity.

Table 13.13 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates with/without a SN-OD present from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)

ODST	SN-OD present for donation decision conversation					SN-OD not present for donation decision conversation					All
	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)
Eastern	113	65.5	231	57.1	59.9	2	0.0	24	8.3	7.7	56.2
London	176	56.8	161	53.4	55.2	5	20.0	19	10.5	12.5	52.4
Midlands	144	63.2	253	50.6	55.2	7	28.6	28	28.6	28.6	53.0
North West	121	75.2	157	61.8	67.6	3	0.0	11	9.1	7.1	64.7
Northern	73	74.0	96	63.5	68.0	2	0.0	6	0.0	0.0	65.0
Northern Ireland	54	68.5	53	67.9	68.2	1	0.0	2	0.0	0.0	66.4
Scotland	88	77.3	113	59.3	67.2	7	28.6	20	10.0	14.8	61.0
South Central	95	77.9	117	61.5	68.9	1	0.0	17	0.0	0.0	63.5
South East	115	72.2	172	66.9	69.0	1	0.0	12	8.3	7.7	66.3
South Wales	48	62.5	47	59.6	61.1	6	33.3	15	6.7	14.3	52.6
South West	84	86.9	124	72.6	78.4	3	66.7	9	33.3	41.7	76.4
Yorkshire	104	70.2	147	58.5	63.3	6	16.7	14	28.6	25.0	60.5
TOTAL	1215	69.8	1671	59.7	64.0	44	22.7	177	13.6	15.4	60.5

13.7 Comparison with previous years

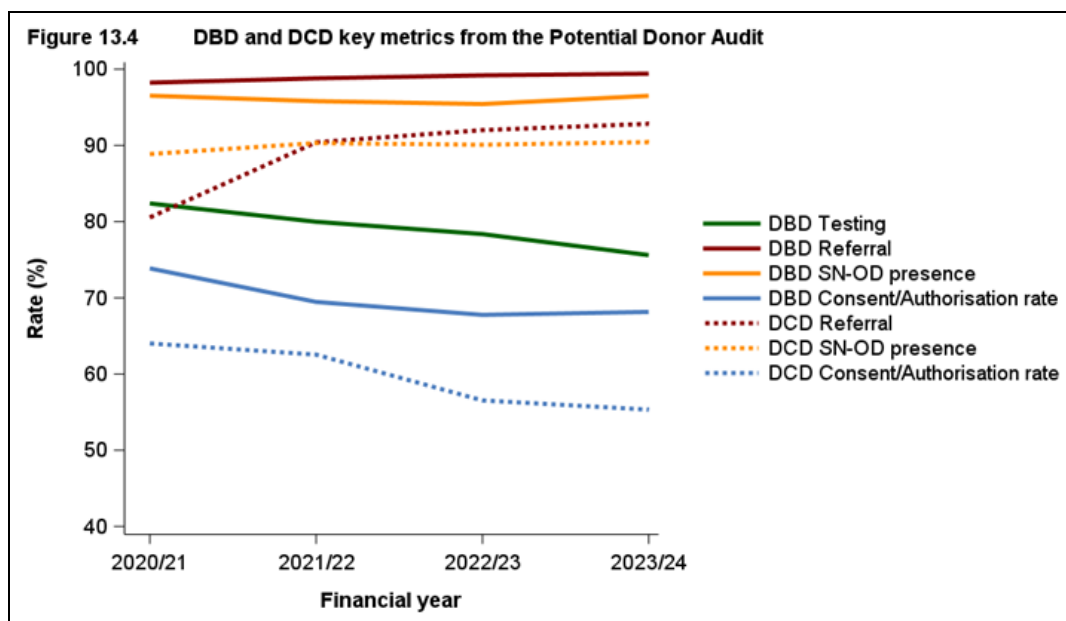
Table 13.14 and Figure 13.4 show the key metrics from the PDA for the last four financial years.

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 ¹	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donor donation decision conversations	SN-OD presence rate (%)	Number of families who consented to/ authorised donation	Consent/ authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors ²
DBD	2020-2021	1811	82.4	98.2	1353	1209	96.5	893	73.9	779
	2021-2022	1918	80.0	98.8	1375	1241	95.8	862	69.5	787
	2022-2023	1992	78.4	99.2	1442	1247	95.4	845	67.8	782
	2023-2024	2029	75.6	99.4	1426	1259	96.5	858	68.1	788
DCD	2020-2021	5938		80.5	2851	1042	88.9	667	64.0	402
	2021-2022	5234		90.4	2993	1455	90.3	910	62.5	604
	2022-2023	5343		92.0	3491	1705	90.1	964	56.5	637
	2023-2024	5330		92.8	3634	1848	90.4	1022	55.3	710
TOTAL	2020-2021	7466		84.4	4204	2251	93.0	1560	69.3	1182
	2021-2022	6802		92.5	4368	2696	92.8	1772	65.7	1391
	2022-2023	6953		93.7	4933	2952	92.3	1809	61.3	1419
	2023-2024	6910		94.4	5060	3107	92.9	1880	60.5	1498

¹ 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

² Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 12 DCD donors in 2020-2021, 6 DCD donors in 2021-2022, 21 DCD donors in 2022-2023 and 29 DCD donors in 2023-2024

DBD referral rates have remained unchanged, with DCD referral rates having risen since 2020/21. The DBD testing rate has been slowly decreasing whilst the SN-OD presence rate has remained unchanged in both DBD and DCD. The consent/authorisation rate for both DBD and DCD has fallen slightly.



13.8 Consented/authorised cases not proceeding to solid organ donation

Consent/authorisation for donation was ascertained for 858 eligible DBD donors and 1,022 eligible DCD donors; 788 (92%) and 710 (69%) 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 70 eligible DBD and 312 eligible DCD cases where consent/authorisation was ascertained. The main reasons reported for consented/authorised eligible DBD donors not proceeding to donate was that the organs were deemed to be medically unsuitable by transplant centres or there was Coroner/Procurator fiscal refusal to organ donation. 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 2023 to 31 March 2024, by donor type

Primary reason why donation did not proceed	Donor type					
	DBD		DCD		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Clinical - Absolute contraindication to organ donation	3	4.3	5	1.6	8	2.1
Clinical - No transplantable organ	7	10.0	12	3.8	19	5.0
Clinical - Patient's general medical condition	1	1.4	6	1.9	7	1.8
Clinical - Patient actively dying	4	5.7	7	2.2	11	2.9
Clinical - Considered high risk donor	4	5.7	8	2.6	12	3.1
Clinical - DCD clinical exclusion	0	-	2	0.6	2	0.5
Clinical - Patient asystolic	3	4.3	1	0.3	4	1.0
Clinical - Predicted PTA therefore not attended	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3
Clinical - PTA post WLST	0	-	164	52.6	164	42.9
Clinical - Organs deemed medically unsuitable by recipient centres	17	24.3	58	18.6	75	19.6
Clinical - Organs deemed medically unsuitable on surgical inspection	9	12.9	6	1.9	15	3.9
Clinical - Positive virology	2	2.9	0	-	2	0.5
Clinical - Other	3	4.3	7	2.2	10	2.6
Consent / Auth - Coroner/Procurator fiscal refusal	10	14.3	8	2.6	18	4.7
Consent / Auth - NOK declined organ donation	1	1.4	0	-	1	0.3
Consent / Auth - NOK withdraw consent / authorisation	6	8.6	22	7.1	28	7.3
Consent / Auth - Family placed conditions on donation	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3
Consent / Auth - Other	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3
Logistical - Unit unable to maintain patient	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3
Logistical - Retrieval team not available	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3
Logistical - Other	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3
TOTAL	70	100	312	100	382	100

PTA = Prolonged time to asystole, WLST = Withdrawal of life sustaining treatment, NOK = Next of kin