

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT**  
**PANCREAS ADVISORY GROUP AND ISLET STEERING GROUP**

**IMPACT OF LIMITED ISOLATION LAB AVAILABILITY**

**SUMMARY**

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 There are three isolation laboratories in the UK, two in England that operate on a rota basis and one in Scotland; when all three labs are operational there are never more than two laboratories able to isolate at any one time. The King's isolation laboratory was closed from 25 August 2023 to 16 September 2024 due to the presence of a recurring fungal infection. This meant there was limited isolation laboratory availability during the weeks that King's would have been isolating, which led to an increase in the number of islet offers being declined by centres due to no laboratory being available to isolate.

**INTRODUCTION**

- 2 This paper provides information on the reasons for decline of islet offers from donors whose pancreas was not used for islet transplantation. The information is presented on a per donor basis for any donor who had at least one islet offer made in the time period.

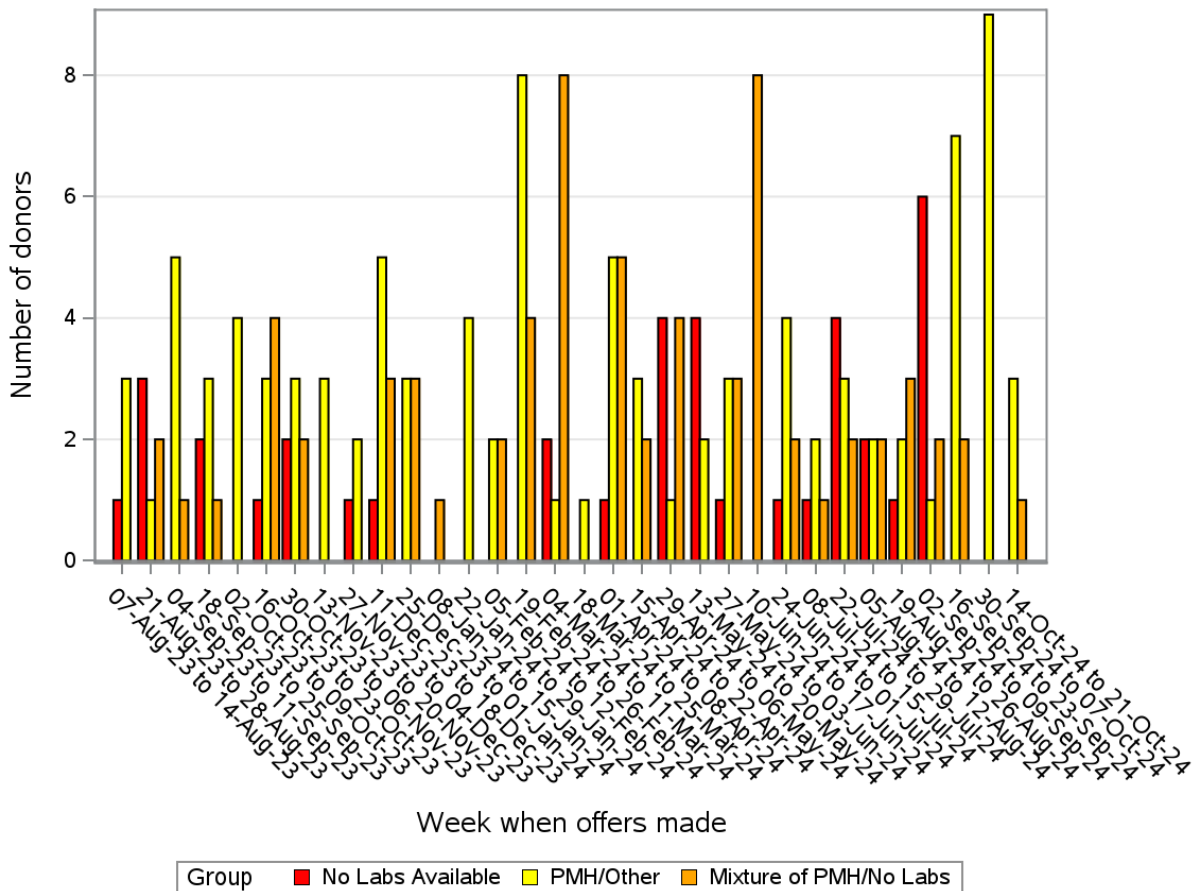
**DATA**

- 3 Data on 204 donors between 7 August 2023 and 21 October 2024 whose pancreas was offered for islet transplantation in weeks where the King's lab would have been on call for isolation were analysed. Data on 355 donors between January 2023 and July 2023 (N=158) and January 2024 and July 2024 (N=197) were also analysed to compare time periods where King's were open and closed. Any donors whose pancreas was used for islet transplantation were excluded.
- 4 The reasons for decline of islet offers were analysed on a per donor basis, these include "no labs available", "past medical history (PMH) / other", and "mixture of PMH / no labs". For example, if one centre declined due to no lab availability and another centre declined due to past medical history, this donor would be classed in the "mixture of PMH / no labs" decline group. Any donors in the "no labs available" group had all islet offers made declined due to no lab availability, and similarly for those donors in the PMH group.

**RESULTS**

- 5 **Figure 1** shows the reasons for donor islet offer declines by week, in weeks where the King's isolation laboratory would have been on call for isolation, between 7 August 2023 and 21 October 2024. There were a total of 204 donors whose pancreas was offered for islets in these weeks, of which 38 (19%) were declined solely due to no lab availability. Of the 204 donors, 116 (52%) had at least one offer declined due to no lab availability.
- 6 Since the King's lab was re-opened, there has been a marked decrease in the number of islet offers being declined due to no lab availability. Only one (8%) of the 13 donors offered for islets had an offer declined for this reason since.

**Figure 1** Reasons for donor islet offer declines in weeks where King’s lab would have been on call for isolation, 7 August 2023 to 21 October 2024

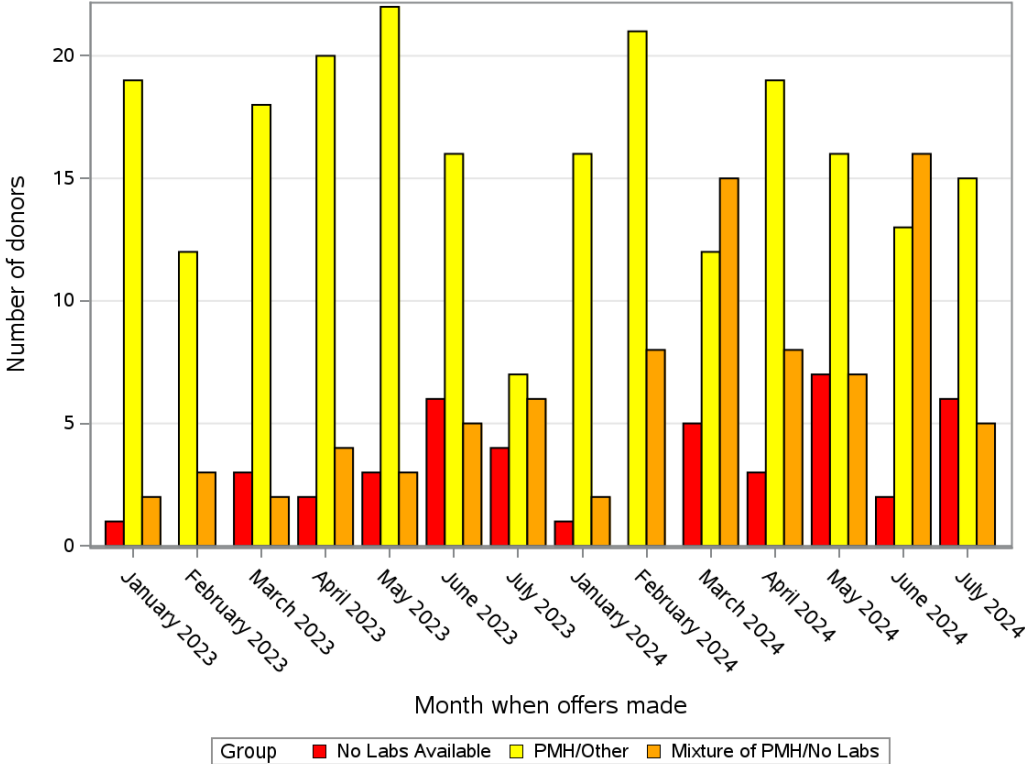


7 **Figure 2** shows the reasons for donor islet offer declines by month, between 1 January 2023 and 31 July 2023, and 1 January 2024 and 31 July 2024. There were a total of 158 donors offered for islets in the 2023 period, of which 44 (28%) had at least one offer declined due to no lab availability. This was lower than in the 2024 period, when the King’s lab was closed, where 85 (43% of 197) donors had at least one offer declined due to no lab availability. This difference was statistically significant (chi-square  $p=0.0029$ ).

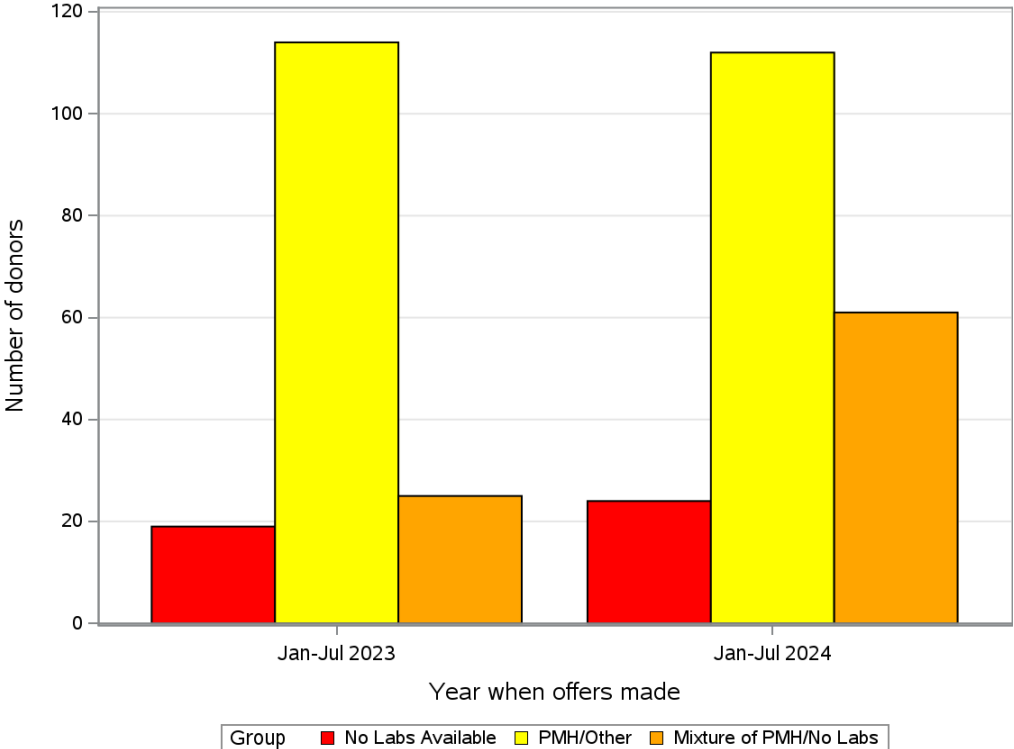
8 **Figure 3** shows the same data as **Figure 2**, broken down by year instead of month. This figure represents the increase in the number of donors declined due to no lab availability when the King’s lab was closed, in comparison to the previous year when all labs were available.

9 **Table 1** shows a breakdown of the numbers in **Figures 2 and 3**, by the reasons for decline, and month and year that the offers were made.

**Figure 2** Reasons for donor islet offer declines by month, January 2023 to July 2023 and January 2024 to July 2024



**Figure 3** Reasons for donor islet offer declines by year, January 2023 to July 2023 and January 2024 to July 2024



Month	No labs available		PMH/Other		PMH/No Labs		Total	
	2023 (%)	2024 (%)	2023 (%)	2024 (%)	2023 (%)	2024 (%)	2023	2024
January	1 (5)	1 (5)	19 (86)	16 (84)	2 (9)	2 (11)	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>
February	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (80)	21 (72)	3 (20)	8 (28)	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>
March	3 (13)	5 (16)	18 (78)	12 (38)	2 (9)	15 (47)	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>
April	2 (8)	3 (10)	20 (77)	19 (63)	4 (15)	8 (27)	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>
May	3 (11)	7 (23)	22 (79)	16 (53)	3 (11)	7 (23)	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>
June	6 (22)	2 (6)	16 (59)	13 (42)	5 (19)	16 (52)	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>
July	4 (24)	6 (23)	7 (41)	15 (58)	6 (35)	5 (19)	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 (12)</b>	<b>24 (12)</b>	<b>114 (72)</b>	<b>112 (57)</b>	<b>25 (16)</b>	<b>61 (31)</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>197</b>

**ACTION**

- 10 This information will be presented at the Islet Summit meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Members will be asked to consider this information to inform discussions surrounding the capacity of the islet isolation laboratories in the UK.

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