

National Potential Donor Audit

Key messages

- There were 35,467 audited deaths reported through the Potential Donor Audit in 2024-2025, including 1,398 (99.6%) of the 1,403 deceased organ donors.
- Compared to the previous financial year, the overall referral rate of potential donors has remained high, 94% in both 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. The proportion of donation decision conversations where a Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation was present has dropped slightly in 2024-2025 from 93% to 92%, and the overall consent/authorisation rate continues to decline in 2024-2025, from 60% to 59%.
- The consent/authorisation rate was 87% when a patient had expressed an opt in decision, but 173 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 (63% and 33% respectively).

13.1 Introduction

In this chapter, summary data from the National Potential Donor Audit (PDA) are shown for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 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 2025. **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Eligible donors after circulatory death (DCD) are defined as patients who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated, with no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.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://nhsbtdbe.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, Guernsey or Northern Ireland 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 2024 – 31 March 2025

In the 12-month period there were a total of 35,467 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 1,398 solid organ donors reported through the PDA, 99.6% of the total 1,403 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

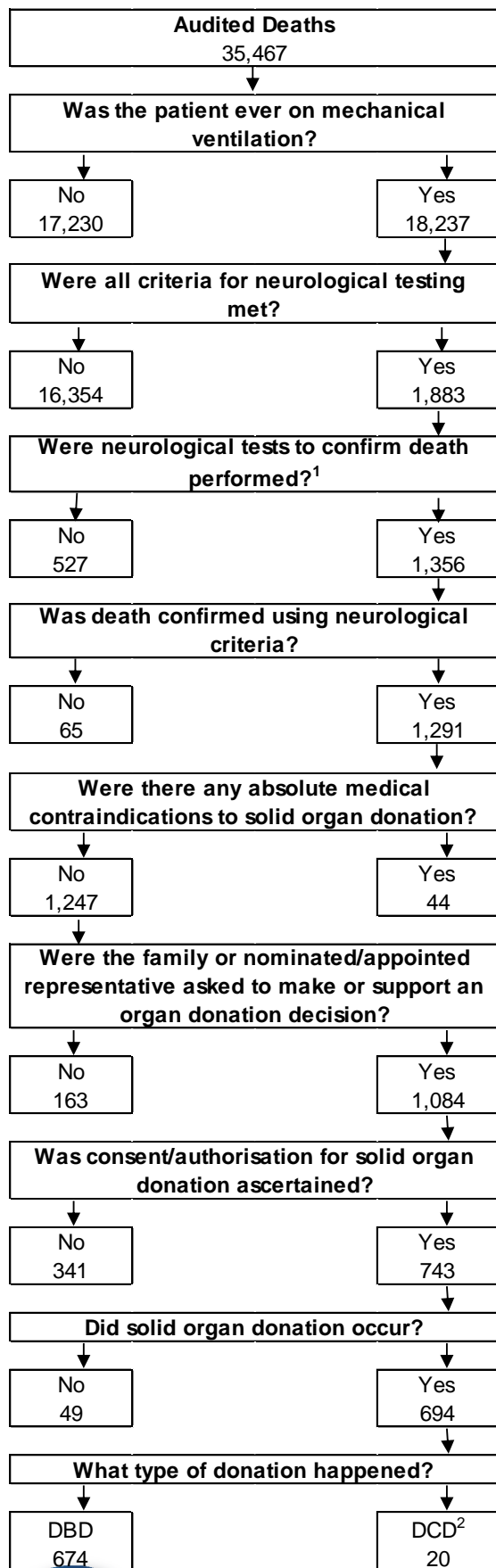
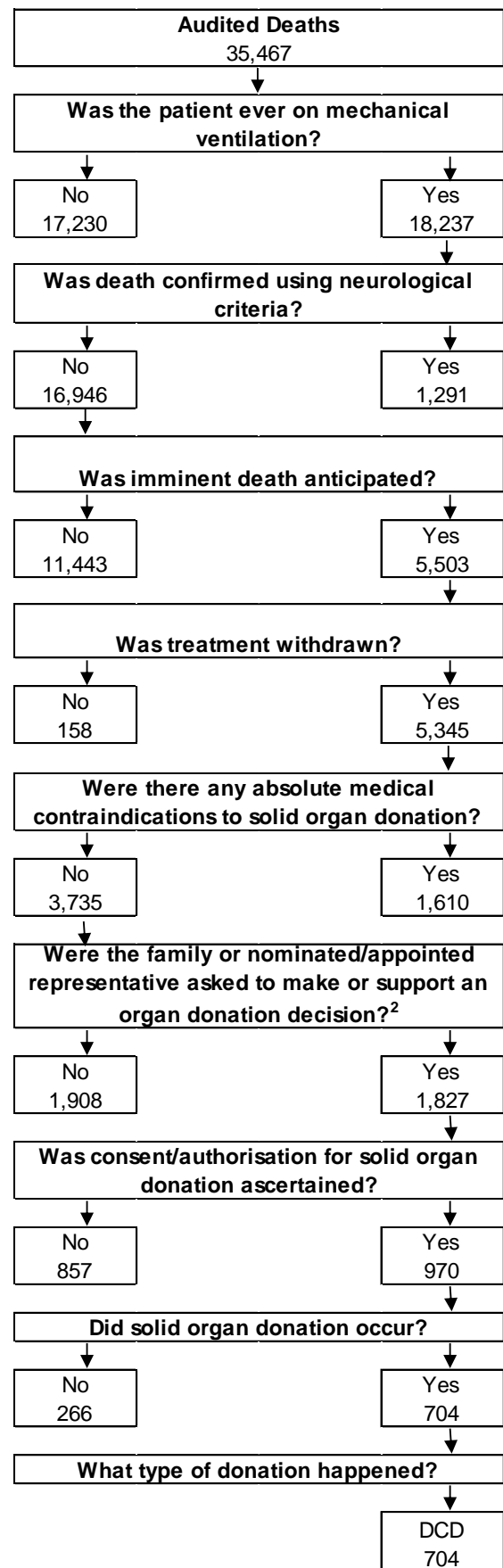


Figure 13.2 Donation after circulatory death



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 2024 to 31 March 2025

	DBD	DCD	ALL
Neurological death testing rate	72.0		
Referral rate	98.7	93.0	94.3
SN-OD presence rate	96.9	88.8	91.8
Consent/authorisation rate	68.5	53.1	58.8
- SN-OD present for donation decision conversation	70.2	58.9	63.3
- SN-OD not present for donation decision conversation	17.6	7.3	8.8
- All expressed opt in*	94.0	81.6	86.5
- Expressed ODR opt in (subset of all expressed opt in)	93.4	81.1	85.7
- Deemed consent/authorisation**	57.3	42.7	48.2
- Other***	54.5	29.4	37.7

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

** There were 1003 cases where deemed consent/authorisation applied and in 520 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 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Testing rate	Referral rate	SN-OD presence rate	Consent/authorisation rate
ODST				
Eastern	67.1	92.9	92.1	57.3
London	72.5	92.9	94.8	52.0
Midlands	70.9	90.7	88.7	55.3
North West	70.3	95.4	94.4	60.4
Northern	89.4	96.1	95.0	63.5
Northern Ireland	68.3	96.3	91.6	59.0
Scotland	73.2	97.0	87.2	63.1
South Central	65.9	94.2	90.2	59.1
South East	74.4	94.8	93.7	65.9
South Wales	83.1	98.0	82.2	57.4
South West	67.8	91.4	92.3	71.6
Yorkshire	71.1	98.2	94.6	49.8
TOTAL	72.0	94.3	91.8	58.8

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 England, eligible DBD ranged from 13.8 pmp in the East of England to 30.6 pmp in London. Eligible DCD ranged from 51.3 pmp in the Midlands to 71.3 pmp in the East of England.

Across the countries, there was a range of 51.2 eligible donors pmp in Scotland to 83.7 eligible donors pmp in Wales. Overall, there were 1,247 eligible DBD (18.4 pmp) and 3,735 eligible DCD (55.3 pmp) in the UK, resulting in a total of 73.7 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 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	160	(19.5)	457	(55.6)	617	(75.1)
North West	116	(15.4)	472	(62.8)	588	(78.2)
Midlands	188	(17.2)	562	(51.3)	750	(68.4)
East of England	88	(13.8)	456	(71.3)	544	(85.0)
London	271	(30.6)	555	(62.6)	826	(93.1)
South East	133	(14.2)	482	(51.4)	615	(65.6)
South West	94	(16.3)	297	(51.6)	391	(67.9)
England	1050	(18.4)	3281	(57.5)	4331	(75.8)
Isle of Man	2	(25.0)	3	(37.5)	5	(62.5)
Channel Islands	0	(0.0)	1	(5.9)	1	(5.9)
Wales	67	(21.4)	195	(62.3)	262	(83.7)
Scotland	86	(15.8)	193	(35.4)	279	(51.2)
Northern Ireland	42	(22.0)	62	(32.5)	104	(54.5)
TOTAL	1247	(18.4)	3735	(55.3)	4982	(73.7)

Table 13.4 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	221	79.2	100.0	160	143	97.9	64.3
North West	180	68.9	99.4	116	94	100.0	66.0
Midlands	287	71.8	97.2	188	166	97.0	69.3
East of England	145	64.8	97.2	88	80	98.8	70.0
London	399	73.4	98.7	271	222	97.3	59.9
South East	208	67.8	100.0	133	123	98.4	78.9
South West	163	69.3	98.2	94	87	96.6	78.2
England	1603	71.5	98.7	1050	915	97.8	68.1
Isle of Man	2	100.0	100.0	2	2	100.0	100.0
Channel Islands	0			0	0		
Wales	88	81.8	100.0	67	56	91.1	76.8
Scotland	127	73.2	98.4	86	72	90.3	68.1
Northern Ireland	63	68.3	98.4	42	39	94.9	66.7
TOTAL	1883	72.0	98.7	1247	1084	96.9	68.5

Table 13.5 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	774	97.2	457	235	92.8	48.5
North West	783	94.6	472	157	92.4	55.4
Midlands	794	88.8	562	289	85.1	50.9
East of England	743	93.0	456	260	88.1	54.2
London	780	90.4	555	251	92.8	45.4
South East	669	92.8	482	233	89.3	57.5
South West	368	90.5	297	161	89.4	65.2
England	4911	92.6	3281	1586	89.7	53.1
Isle of Man	3	100.0	3	0		
Channel Islands	1	0.0	1	0		
Wales	262	96.9	195	82	75.6	43.9
Scotland	241	96.3	193	115	85.2	60.0
Northern Ireland	85	95.3	62	44	88.6	52.3
TOTAL	5503	93.0	3735	1827	88.8	53.1

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 Northern team, where a SNOD was present for 100% of DBD donation decision conversations.

Table 13.6 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	173	67.1	97.7	109	98	98.0	68.4
London	306	72.5	99.3	209	173	97.7	60.1
Midlands	244	70.9	96.7	156	138	97.1	67.4
North West	202	70.3	99.5	132	105	98.1	66.7
Northern	94	89.4	100.0	75	66	100.0	77.3
Northern Ireland	63	68.3	98.4	42	39	94.9	66.7
Scotland	127	73.2	98.4	86	72	90.3	68.1
South Central	126	65.9	100.0	76	69	97.1	71.0
South East	180	74.4	98.3	123	107	99.1	73.8
South Wales	77	83.1	100.0	60	52	94.2	80.8
South West	149	67.8	98.0	84	78	96.2	82.1
Yorkshire	142	71.1	100.0	95	87	95.4	56.3
TOTAL	1883	72.0	98.7	1247	1084	96.9	68.5

Table 13.7 indicates that for DCD patients, the highest referral rate was 97.9% for the Yorkshire team and the highest proportion of DCD donation decision conversations for which a SN-OD was present was 94.1% for the Yorkshire 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 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	843	92.2	532	293	90.1	53.6
London	537	90.1	375	175	92.0	44.0
Midlands	706	88.7	506	260	84.2	48.8
North West	871	94.7	535	165	92.1	56.4
Northern	284	95.1	207	93	91.4	53.8
Northern Ireland	85	95.3	62	44	88.6	52.3
Scotland	241	96.3	193	115	85.2	60.0
South Central	448	93.1	318	146	87.0	53.4
South East	471	93.2	348	163	90.2	60.7
South Wales	185	97.3	139	77	74.0	41.6
South West	307	88.9	254	144	90.3	66.0
Yorkshire	525	97.9	266	152	94.1	46.1
TOTAL	5503	93.0	3735	1827	88.8	53.1

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 86 paediatric patients for whom neurological death was suspected, tests were not performed on 36 patients.

Table 13.8 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	1822	72.9	1223	1063	97.1	68.6	681
	Emergency dept.	29	69.0	18	17	94.1	70.6	11
	Other	8	87.5	5	3	66.7	66.7	2
	TOTAL	1859	72.9	1246	1083	97.0	68.6	694
DCD	Critical care	5000		3422	1775	89.6	53.7	691
	Emergency dept.	90		61	30	80.0	43.3	9
	Other	28		19	8	87.5	50.0	4
	TOTAL	5118		3502	1813	89.5	53.5	704

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 19 DCD donors referred from critical care, 0 DCD donors referred from emergency departments and 1 DCD donor referred from an other unit.

Table 13.9 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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)	1797	72.7	98.8	1206	1049	96.9	68.9	674
	Paediatric (<18)	86	58.1	96.5	41	35	94.3	57.1	20
	TOTAL	1883	72.0	98.7	1247	1084	96.9	68.5	694
DCD	Adult (>=18)	5302		92.9	3576	1765	89.1	54.2	691
	Paediatric (<18)	201		95.0	159	62	80.6	22.6	13
	TOTAL	5503		93.0	3735	1827	88.8	53.1	704

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 1 DCD donors under 18 and 19 DCD donors aged 18 and over

13.5 Consent/ authorisation rates

The overall DBD consent/authorisation rate was 69% and the 95% confidence limits for this percentage are 66% - 71%. For DCD, the overall rate was 53% and the 95% confidence limits are 51% - 55%.

Across the country/NHS region, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 60% in London to 79% in the South East. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 45% in London to 65% 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 59%, 57%, 63% and 59% 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 Yorkshire team to 82% in the South West team. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 42% in the South Wales team to 66% in the South West team.

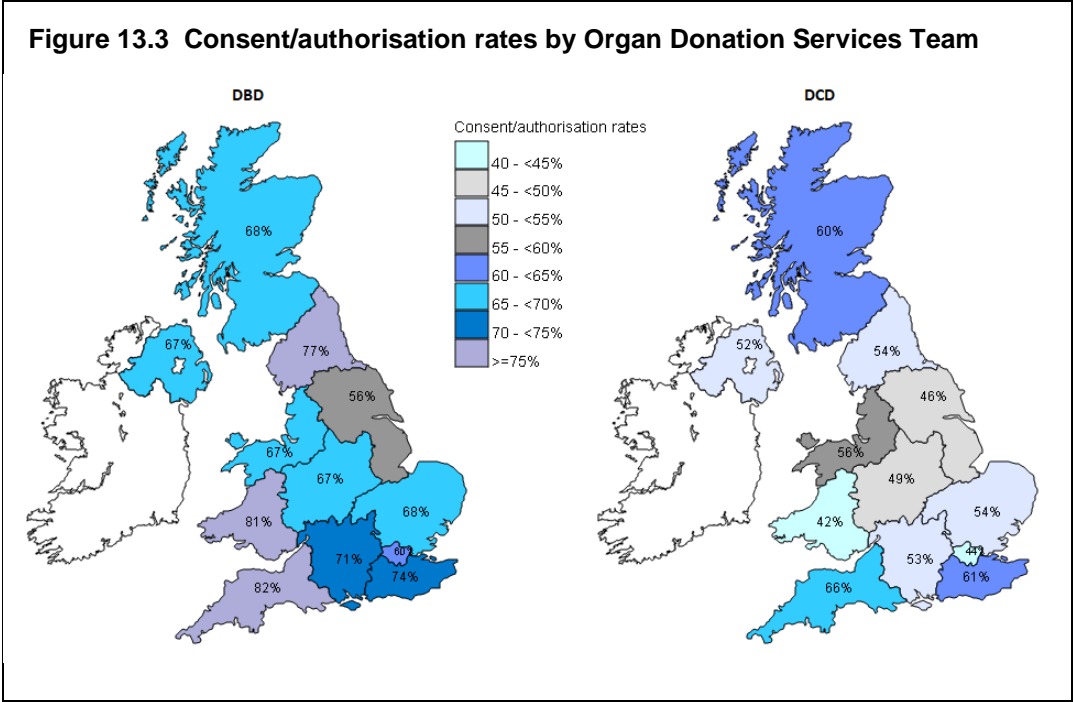


Table 13.10 shows the consent/authorisation rate separately for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups. The national DBD consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups were 75% and 39%, respectively. A similar difference was observed for DCD consent/authorisation rates: 56% and 27%, respectively. Note that there were an additional 25 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 3% or less donation decision conversations where patients are from ethnic minority groups, whereas London accounted for 38%. 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 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	84	67.9	268	57.1	59.7	14	71.4	24	16.7	36.8	57.3
London	97	75.3	115	52.2	62.7	72	43.1	57	29.8	37.2	52.0
Midlands	113	73.5	226	51.3	58.7	25	40.0	33	33.3	36.2	55.3
North West	95	69.5	158	58.2	62.5	10	40.0	7	-	29.4	60.4
Northern	64	79.7	89	55.1	65.4	2	-	4	-	-	63.5
Northern Ireland	36	72.2	43	53.5	62.0	3	-	1	-	-	59.0
Scotland	67	70.1	106	63.2	65.9	5	-	3	-	-	63.1
South Central	56	76.8	133	55.6	61.9	13	46.2	13	30.8	38.5	59.1
South East	90	81.1	148	64.2	70.6	17	35.3	15	26.7	31.3	65.9
South Wales	47	85.1	72	43.1	59.7	5	-	4	-	-	57.4
South West	74	85.1	134	68.7	74.5	4	-	4	-	-	71.6
Yorkshire	67	70.1	142	48.6	55.5	20	10.0	7	-	7.4	49.8
TOTAL	890	75.2	1634	56.4	63.0	190	38.9	172	27.3	33.4	58.8

¹ Includes 25 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 20% 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 2024 to 31 March 2025, by donor type						
Primary reason why family did not support organ donation	Donor type				Total	
	DBD		DCD			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Patient had previously expressed a wish not to donate	86	25.2	157	18.3	243	20.3
Family felt the length of time for the donation process was too long	14	4.1	173	20.2	187	15.6
Family were not sure whether the patient would have agreed to donation	34	10.0	110	12.8	144	12.0
Family felt patient had suffered enough	26	7.6	82	9.6	108	9.0
Family did not want surgery to the body	39	11.4	68	7.9	107	8.9
Other	20	5.9	66	7.7	86	7.2
Family felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs	46	13.5	39	4.6	85	7.1
Strong refusal - probing not appropriate	22	6.5	40	4.7	62	5.2
Patient had registered a decision to Opt Out	14	4.1	43	5.0	57	4.8
Family divided over the decision	9	2.6	25	2.9	34	2.8
Family felt that the body should be buried whole (unrelated to religious/cultural reasons)	14	4.1	15	1.8	29	2.4
Family did not believe in donation	5	1.5	18	2.1	23	1.9
Family wanted to stay with the patient after death	4	1.2	12	1.4	16	1.3
Family concerned that organs may not be transplantable	4	1.2	5	0.6	9	0.8
Missing	0	-	3	0.4	3	0.3
Family had difficulty understanding/accepting neurological testing	2	0.6	0	-	2	0.2
Family concerned other people may disapprove/be offended	1	0.3	1	0.1	2	0.2
Family believe patient's treatment may have been limited to facilitate organ donation	1	0.3	0	-	1	0.1
TOTAL	341	100	857	100	1198	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 89% 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 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	98	96	98.0	293	264	90.1	92.1
London	173	169	97.7	175	161	92.0	94.8
Midlands	138	134	97.1	260	219	84.2	88.7
North West	105	103	98.1	165	152	92.1	94.4
Northern	66	66	100.0	93	85	91.4	95.0
Northern Ireland	39	37	94.9	44	39	88.6	91.6
Scotland	72	65	90.3	115	98	85.2	87.2
South Central	69	67	97.1	146	127	87.0	90.2
South East	107	106	99.1	163	147	90.2	93.7
South Wales	52	49	94.2	77	57	74.0	82.2
South West	78	75	96.2	144	130	90.3	92.3
Yorkshire	87	83	95.4	152	143	94.1	94.6
TOTAL	1084	1050	96.9	1827	1622	88.8	91.8

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 2024 to 31 March 2025, 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	96	69.8	264	58.0	61.1	2	0.0	29	13.8	12.9	57.3
London	169	61.5	161	47.8	54.8	4	0.0	14	0.0	0.0	52.0
Midlands	134	67.2	219	56.2	60.3	4	75.0	41	9.8	15.6	55.3
North West	103	67.0	152	60.5	63.1	2	50.0	13	7.7	13.3	60.4
Northern	66	77.3	85	58.8	66.9	0	-	8	0.0	0.0	63.5
Northern Ireland	37	70.3	39	59.0	64.5	2	0.0	5	0.0	0.0	59.0
Scotland	65	75.4	98	69.4	71.8	7	0.0	17	5.9	4.2	63.1
South Central	67	73.1	127	61.4	65.5	2	0.0	19	0.0	0.0	59.1
South East	106	74.5	147	66.7	70.0	1	0.0	16	6.3	5.9	65.9
South Wales	49	83.7	57	56.1	68.9	3	33.3	20	0.0	4.3	57.4
South West	75	84.0	130	70.0	75.1	3	33.3	14	28.6	29.4	71.6
Yorkshire	83	59.0	143	49.0	52.7	4	0.0	9	0.0	0.0	49.8
TOTAL	1050	70.2	1622	58.9	63.3	34	17.6	205	7.3	8.8	58.8

13.7 Comparison with previous years

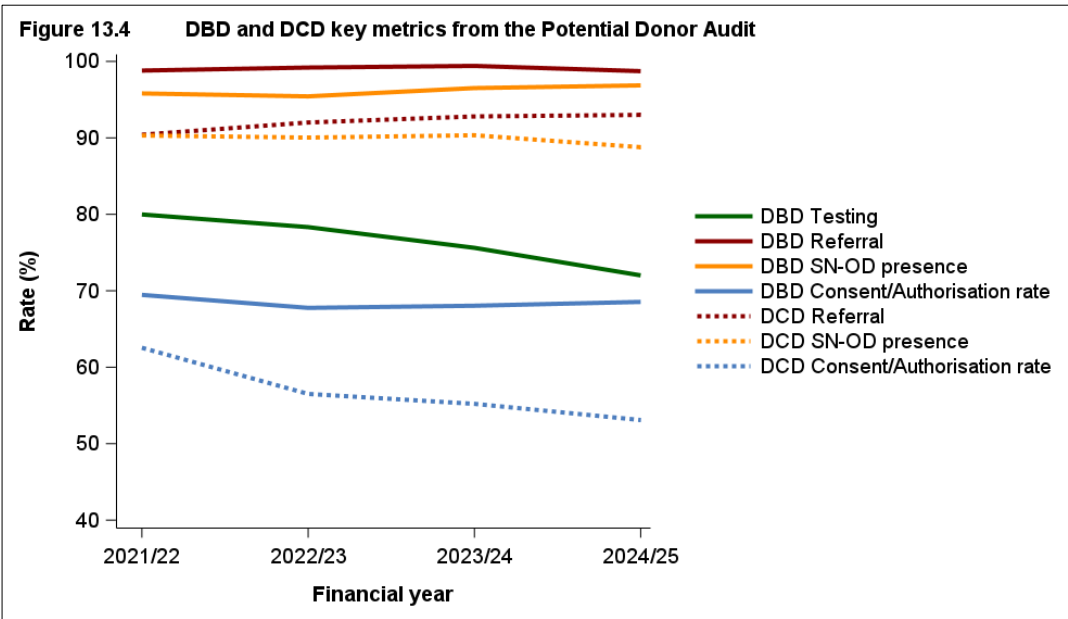
Table 13.14 and Figure 13.4 show the key metrics from the PDA for the last four financial years.

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	2021-2022	1918	80.0	98.8	1375	1241	95.8	862	69.5	787
	2022-2023	1993	78.3	99.2	1442	1247	95.4	845	67.8	782
	2023-2024	2034	75.6	99.4	1428	1261	96.5	858	68.0	788
	2024-2025	1883	72.0	98.7	1247	1084	96.9	743	68.5	694
DCD	2021-2022	5234		90.4	2993	1455	90.3	910	62.5	604
	2022-2023	5345		92.0	3492	1706	90.0	964	56.5	637
	2023-2024	5349		92.8	3648	1853	90.3	1023	55.2	710
	2024-2025	5503		93.0	3735	1827	88.8	970	53.1	704
TOTAL	2021-2022	6802		92.5	4368	2696	92.8	1772	65.7	1391
	2022-2023	6955		93.7	4934	2953	92.3	1809	61.3	1419
	2023-2024	6930		94.3	5076	3114	92.8	1881	60.4	1498
	2024-2025	6880		94.3	4982	2911	91.8	1713	58.8	1398

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 6 DCD donors in 2021-2022, 21 DCD donors in 2022-2023 and 29 DCD donors in 2023-2024 and 20 DCD donors in 2024-2025

DBD referral rates have remained unchanged, with DCD referral rates having risen since 2021-2022. 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 DBD has remained unchanged in recent years, whilst for DCD it has continued to decrease.



13.8 Consented/authorised cases not proceeding to solid organ donation

Consent/authorisation for donation was ascertained for 743 eligible DBD donors and 970 eligible DCD donors; 694 (93%) and 704 (73%) 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 49 eligible DBD and 266 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 on surgical inspection or 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 2024 to 31 March 2025, by donor type

Primary reason why donation did not proceed	Donor type					
	DBD		DCD		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Clinical - PTA post WLST	0	-	131	49.2	131	41.6
Clinical - Organs deemed medically unsuitable by recipient centres	9	18.4	40	15.0	49	15.6
Consent / Auth - NOK withdraw consent / authorisation	3	6.1	19	7.1	22	7.0
Clinical - Organs deemed medically unsuitable on surgical inspection	13	26.5	8	3.0	21	6.7
Clinical - Patient actively dying	4	8.2	14	5.3	18	5.7
Consent / Auth - Coroner/Procurator fiscal refusal	5	10.2	13	4.9	18	5.7
Clinical - No transplantable organ	3	6.1	10	3.8	13	4.1
Clinical - Considered high risk donor	5	10.2	7	2.6	12	3.8
Clinical - Other	3	6.1	8	3.0	11	3.5
Clinical - Absolute contraindication to organ donation	3	6.1	5	1.9	8	2.5
Clinical - Patient's general medical condition	0	-	7	2.6	7	2.2
Clinical - Predicted PTA therefore not attended	0	-	2	0.8	2	0.6
Clinical - DCD clinical exclusion	0	-	1	0.4	1	0.3
Clinical - Patient asystolic	0	-	1	0.4	1	0.3
Consent / Auth - Other	1	2.0	0	-	1	0.3
TOTAL	49	100	266	100	315	100

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