

NHSBT Board Meeting – 30 September 2025

Written update from Northern Ireland

Future Funding

The funding contribution from Northern Ireland for 25/26 has now been settled. Initial discussions have started on the required funding for 26/27 and future years.

Organ Donor Register

Opt-out registrations on the Organ Donor Register (ODR) peaked unexpectedly over May and June but then settled. It is believed that the spike could have been due to a heavy-weight campaign and awareness activity around the recent law change in the Republic of Ireland.

ODR registrations have now reached 59% of the Northern Ireland population - 57% opt-in and 2% opt-out.

Recent Promotional Work

Recent promotional work includes working with Translink, the sole public transport provider in Northern Ireland, attending large footfall events such as Pride and Mela, and promotional messaging around the World Transplant Games.

Media activity was secured around the very successful Team Northern Ireland at the World Transplant Games and also the release of the Transplant Activity Report at the end of July.

Upcoming events (at time of writing)

The post-primary educational resources will officially launch on 17 September with Ministerial support.

A series of events are planned across the country in the run up to, and during, Organ Donation Week, including –

- Ulster University Welcome Week;

- 'Turn the peak pink', a bracing climb up Slieve Donard, the highest mountain in Northern Ireland;
- the 'Grand Lifecycle Challenge', partnering with Translink, this is a virtual cycle challenge from Belfast to Dublin and back, which is being held in the new major transport hub in Belfast;
- 'The Big Light Up' where a range of partners will come together to light up as many buildings and tourist attractions pink in support of organ donation;
- South Eastern Regional College freshers; and
- RVH Liver Support Group, *Walk and Talk for Organ Donation Week*; and
- Belfast Marathon Expo event.

Plans are also being developed for 'Orgtober' and Organ Donation Discussion day on 11 December.

In addition, there is an ongoing schedule of events and presentations, as well as work to identify and develop new partnership opportunities.