



NHSBT BOARD SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE – DECEMBER 2025

Organ & Tissue Donation Week 2025

The Organ and Tissue Donation Week marketing campaign in September 2025, which ran into mid-November, highlighted the importance of people recording their decision on the Organ Donor Register (ODR) and telling their family and friends what they've decided.

The campaign consisted of PR activity with case studies of people with lived experience of organ donation and stakeholder engagement to support Organ Donation Week 22-29 September and was followed by paid for media throughout October utilising video on demand, digital, radio as well as PR.

The campaign evaluation is in development.

Corneal Donation Awareness Raising

In order to raise awareness of corneal donation, the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health visited the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) on 2 December to meet patients who have had corneal transplants and the SNBTS Tissue Donor Co-ordinators and the corneal retrieval staff to hear about their work.

A Scottish Government press release was issued to coincide with the visit.

In 2024/25, the Scottish Government provided baseline funding of just over £260,000 to SNBTS to recruit four additional Tissue Donor Co-ordinators and two corneal retrieval staff members.

The Donation & Transplantation Plan for Scotland: 2021 – 2026 sets out a number of recommendations to increase the numbers of donors and organs and tissues donated, along with increasing the number of available organs and tissue that can be used for transplant.

A key recommendation in the Plan is to ensure a robust eye retrieval service for Scotland is in place and to continue to monitor and review progress on increasing eye donation.

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) has been actively monitoring progress of this recommendation with the aim of ultimately achieving sufficient eye donors in Scotland to meet the clinical demand for cornea transplants for patients in Scotland, including working with hospices to enable some of those who die to also have the opportunity to donate their eyes.

NHS Organ Donor Register Figures

As of 6 November 2025, over half of the population in Scotland (58.3%) have recorded their donation decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register. Of this total, 54.7% have recorded a decision to be a donor, with 3.6% choosing to opt out.

**Scottish Government
December 2025**