

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE**

KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP

LIVING DONOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION: UPDATE

LAY SUMMARY

This paper gives an update on living donor kidney transplant activity, including the number of transplants and the time taken to report the data to NHS Blood and Transplant. The paper also gives more detail on activity in the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme, which gives opportunities for recipients with a willing live donor an opportunity for a compatible or improved match. In particular, the reasons that identified transplants don't proceed are reported by centre, and the time taken for between the transplants being identified and the dates of surgery. These are key metrics in the performance of the scheme, and centres are asked to review their data.

BACKGROUND

- 1 This paper provides an update on activities related to living donor kidney transplantation (LDKT), including:
 - Activity and reporting
 - UK Living Kidney Sharing Schemes (UKLKSS)
 - Offering of unmatched non-directed altruistic donors to paediatric recipients

DATA

- 2 Data on UKLKSS matching runs and transplant activity between April 2025 and April 2026 were extracted from the National Transplant Database, held by NHS Blood and Transplant. Survey data from non-proceeding transplants in the UKLKSS was extracted from the MS Forms survey collection, reported by transplant centres involved in non-proceeding exchanges.

ACTIVITY AND REPORTING

- 3 Table 1 shows the living donor kidney transplant activity between June 2025 and March 2026. The table also shows the data as it was reported at each month between August 2025 and May 2026, highlighting where there are any delays in reporting of transplants.

Table 1: Living Donor Kidney Transplants by Month, and Month of Reporting to NHSBT

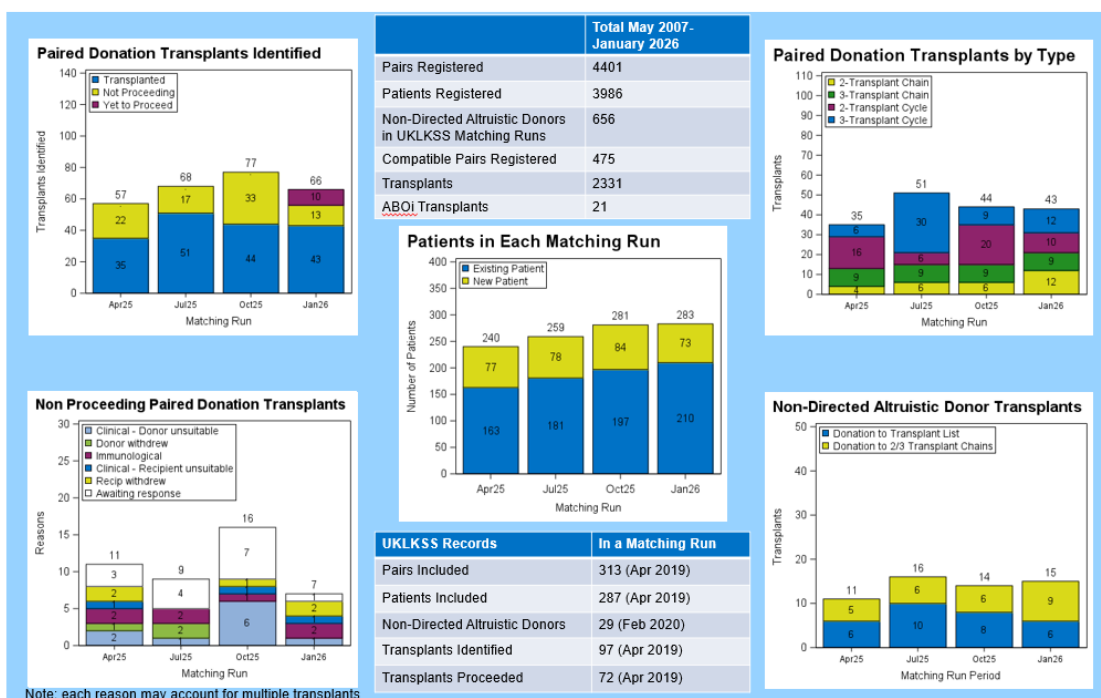
Tx month	Reporting Month									
	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Jun-25	63	69	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Jul-25		80	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85
Aug-25			67	69	69	69	69	69	69	69
Sep-25				86	88	88	88	88	88	88
Oct-25					83	88	93	93	93	93
Nov-25						71	75	76	77	77
Dec-25							67	69	73	73
Jan-26								83	95	96
Feb-26									58	73
Mar-26										72

UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme

4 Figure 1 shows the latest performance data form the UKLKSS, including patients included in and transplanted in matching runs, reasons for non-proceeding transplants and the number of non-directed altruistic donor transplants.

Figure 1: UKLKSS Performance Figures

UK Living Kidney Sharing Schemes Performance Figures



- 5 The number of UKLKSS matches that each transplant centre was involved in from the April 2025 to January 2026 matching runs, is shown in Figure 2a. From those matches, the number of cases where each centre were asked to complete a survey giving the reason for a non-proceeding transplant are shown in Figure 2b. The proportion of the matches each centre was involved in that didn't proceed is shown in Figure 2c.

Figure 2a: Number of UKLKSS matches each transplant centre was involved in April 2025 to January 2026

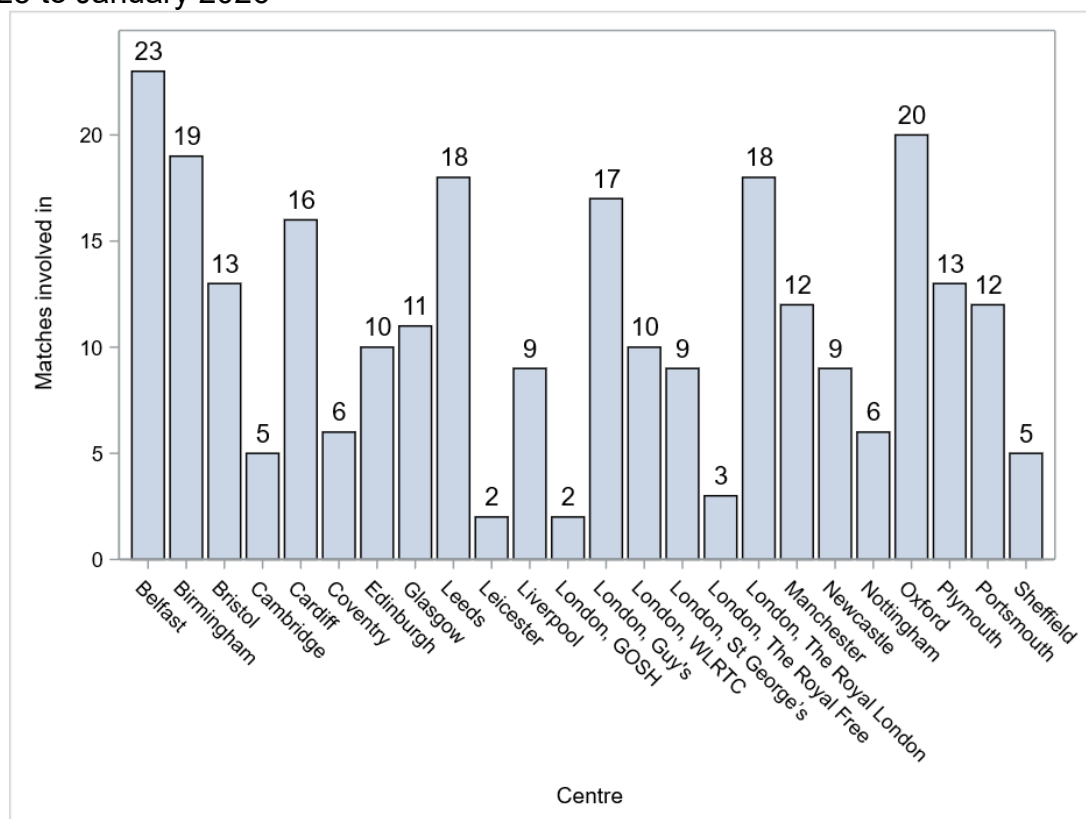


Figure 2b: Number of non-proceeding UKLKSS transplants by centre and classification April 2025 to January 2026

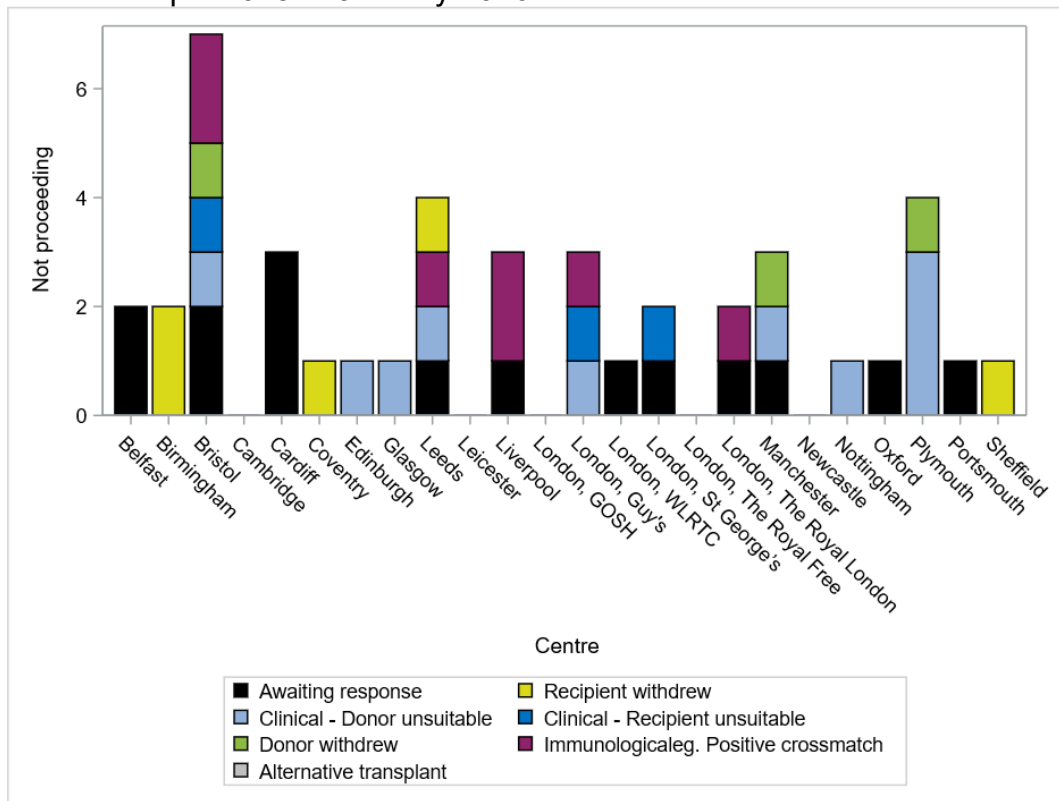
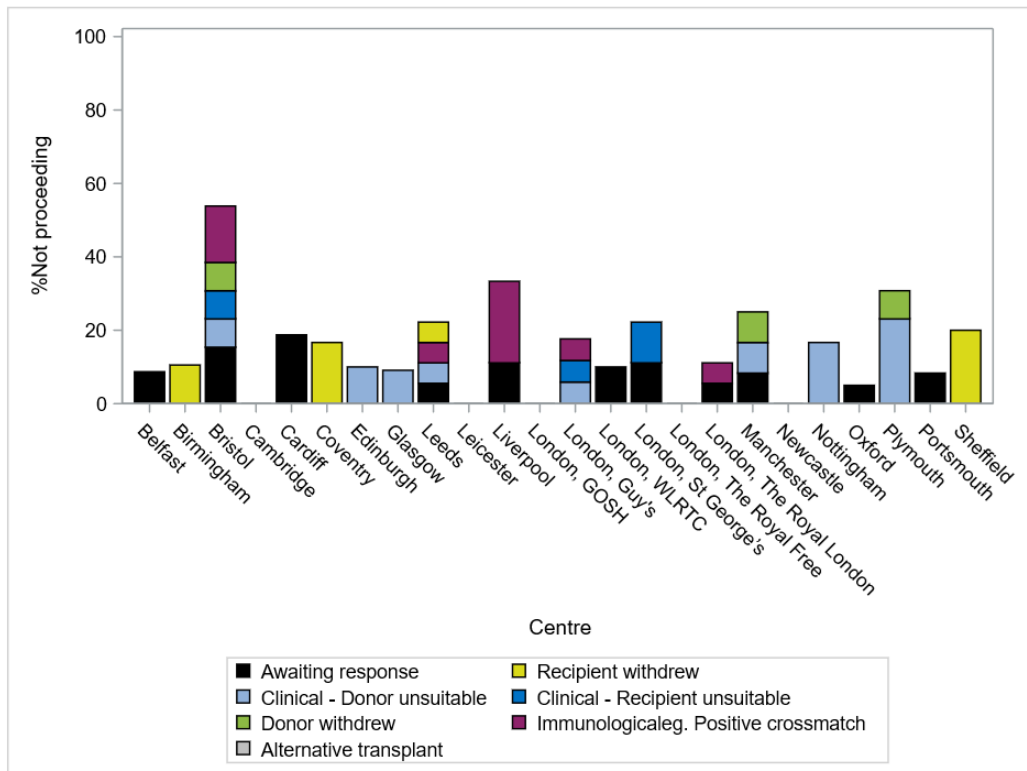


Figure 2c: Proportion of non-proceeding UKLKSS transplants by centre and classification April 2025 to January 2026



SUMMARY

- 7 - While there have been improvements in timeliness of reporting living donor kidney transplants to NHSBT, there are still some delays of over 2 months.
 - Between the April 2025 and January 2026 matching runs, the proceeding rate of transplants identified has been 65%. However, there are still 10 possible transplants yet to proceed from the January 2026 matching run.
 - A high proportion of transplants took place after the deadline for inclusion in the next matching run over this period, and in transplants that don't proceed after this time point the recipient cannot be included in the next matching run.

ACTION

- 8 Centres are asked to review their specific data and respond to the survey for non-proceeding transplants when required, to help with shared learning and reducing the rate of non-proceeding transplants in the UKLKSS.

Matthew Robb, Jen Lumsdaine and Lisa Burnapp

May 2026