

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

INTRODUCTION

1. There has been a recent increase in Freedom of Information (FOI) requests being made to NHSBT for data held on the UK Transplant Registry or Mechanical Circulatory Support Database. Details are provided to the Cardiothoracic Advisory Group in this report for awareness and transparency, and to highlight the considerable time taken to respond to such requests.
2. NHSBT has a legal obligation to respond to such requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Act states that public authorities in the UK must respond to requests for information within 20 working days of receipt. The response must confirm whether the information is held and, if so, provide it unless an exemption applies. When an exemption is applied, the authority must explain the reason and, where relevant, demonstrate that withholding the information serves the public interest.

REQUESTS

3. Prior to January 2025 there were fewer than 10 FOI requests received per year, however during 2025 the number increased to 28, and there have been 7 in 2026 so far (**Figure 1**). Since January 2025, 20 of the 35 requests received relate to cardiothoracic transplantation (**Figure 2**). The **Appendix** lists the details of each of these 20 requests.

Figure 1 Number of FOI requests received by the NHSBT Statistics Team
January 2023 – February 2026

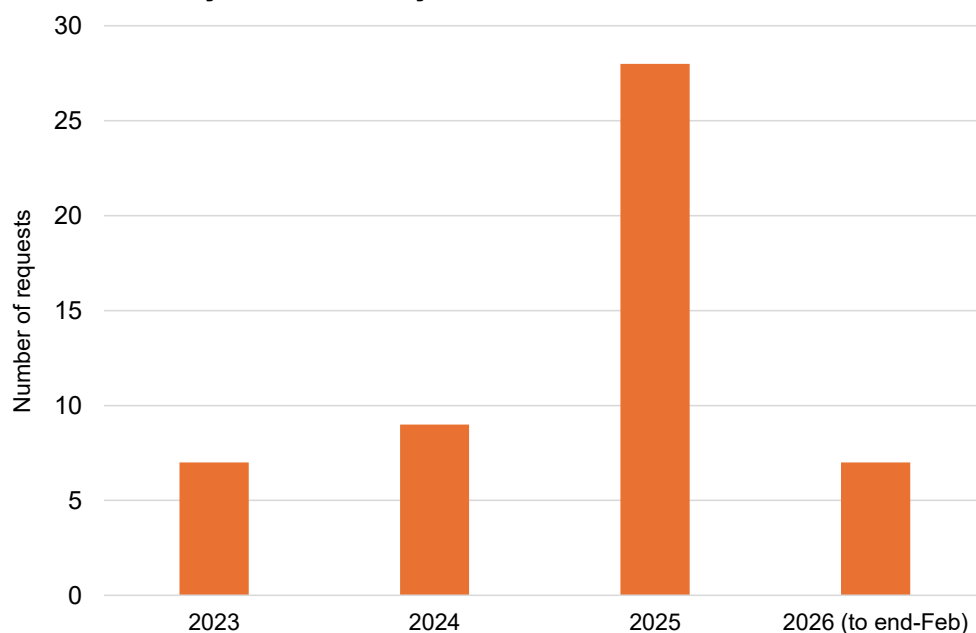
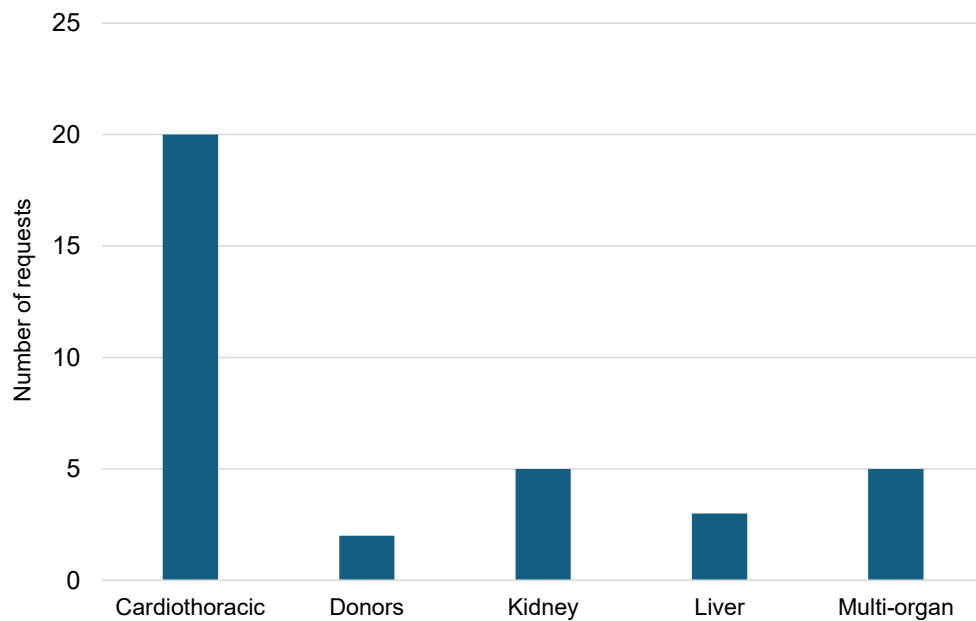


Figure 2 Number of FOI requests received by the NHSBT Statistics Team since January 2025 by organ area



ACTION

4. NHSBT Data Protection Officer and team are aware of the increasing number of FOI requests and aid in confirming the requirement for responding to relevant requests.
5. This report is to raise awareness of the increased demand for FOI requests for cardiothoracic related data held by NHSBT. The ad hoc nature and increasing number of requests, which need to be answered within 20 working days, make it difficult for the Statistics Team to plan and deliver on both scheduled and new data queries.

Sally Rushton and Lisa Mumford
Statistics and Clinical Research

Dr Rommel Ravan
Deputy Medical Director OTDT, NHSBT

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Appendix – Details of each cardiothoracic related FOI received January 2025 – February 2026

CAS-295764-Q4R1P4	05/02/2025	VAD	Number of adult long term devices used for bridging to heart transplant implanted in the UK between 1 October 2018 and 30 June 2021 inclusive, split by first device implanted. For each of these device cohorts the number of patients alive at 30 days, 1 year and 3 years following implant.
CAS-295776-V8R8Q0	10/02/2025	VAD	A copy of the preliminary analysis as described in the NHSBT CTAG Clinical Audit Group: Chairman's Report March 2019.
CAS-298619-L7T2R8	01/04/2025	Lung	The number of adults who had first time lung transplants between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014 in the UK and split by centre. The number of these alive at 1 year, 5 years, and 10 years after transplant for the UK and split by centre.
CAS-299493-P3N4Z1	16/04/2025	Lung	The number of lung transplant recipients with a diagnosis of Cystic Fibrosis who were alive at 31st March 2024 in the UK, and split by centre.
CAS-299761-X6Y4R6	25/04/2025	Heart and Lung	1. The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024 inclusive. The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. For the same cohort the number who were recorded in the following categories for Complications - haemofiltration / haemodialysis (No, Yes, Not Reported, Unknown). This information also split by organ and centre. 2. The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2019 inclusive, who are alive 5 years after transplant and have recorded creatinine levels at transplant and at 60 months (5 years). The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. For the same cohort the number whose creatinine levels were recorded at the following levels at transplant: Less than 100, 100-149, 150-199, 200 or more. For the same cohort the number whose creatinine levels were recorded at the following levels at 60 months: Less than 100, 100-149, 150-199, 200 or more. This information also split by organ and centre. 3. The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2014 inclusive, who are alive 10 years after transplant and have recorded creatinine levels at transplant and at 120 months (10 years). The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. For the same cohort the number whose creatinine levels were recorded at the following levels at transplant: Less than 100, 100-149, 150-199, 200 or more. For the same cohort the number whose creatinine levels were recorded at the following levels at 60 months: Less than 100, 100-149, 150-199, 200 or more. This information also split by organ and centre.
CAS-299970-C9X5H2	29/04/2025	Heart	The number of adults who had first time heart transplants between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014 in the UK and split by centre. The number of these alive at 1 year, 5 years, and 10 years after transplant for the UK and split by centre.
CAS-300823-B9F3C1	19/05/2025	Heart and Lung	The number of people in the UK who have had a heart and / or lung transplant and NHSBT have not received a follow up return from the transplant centre since 1 April 2023 (inclusive) or a date of death notification. Numbers split by transplant centre and organ (include heart & lung block transplants as a lung transplant).
CAS-301508-M3K0Z0	04/06/2025	Heart and Lung	The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024 inclusive. The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. Please split Newcastle into adult and paediatrics. For these: 1. Total number of days spent in ITU after transplant for the whole cohort above and split by the same categories 2. Total number of days spent in HDU after transplant for the whole cohort above and split by the same categories 3. Total number of days spent in hospital after transplant for the whole cohort above and split by the same categories 4. Please clarify whether days spent in hospital exclude or include any ITU and HDU bed days. 5. Please also state whether this data is missing for any cases and if so how many cases (split by the same categories) 6. Please also state if the any cases remain in hospital and if so how many cases (split by the same categories)

CAS-302063-B8C7Z8	18/06/2025	Heart and Lung
1. The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024 inclusive. The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. Please split Newcastle into adult and paediatrics. 2. For the same cohort the number who were recorded in the following categories - Number of serious infection episodes at transplant: a) 0 cases, b) ≥ 1 Case, c) Not reported (88) – Clarification, d) Unknown (99) - Clarification: As above. 3. List the numbers recorded for each organism split by the transplant numbers in the whole cohort of cases (heart, lung, centre, adult paed) 4. The numbers at each site (whether primary, secondary or tertiary), again split by the transplant numbers in the whole cohort of cases (heart, lung, centre, adult paed).		
CAS-304349-M5Y1V8	21/07/2025	Heart
1. The number of adult heart transplants categorised as congenital heart disease between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2023 (inclusive). Please include transplants that also include other organs (such as liver or lungs) as well as the heart. Split the data by the number undertaken into two categories, those undertaken at Newcastle and those at any other UK centre. For this cohort and the same provider split the number alive at 1 year. 2. The number of adult heart transplants categorised as congenital heart disease between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2019 (inclusive). Please include heart transplants that also include other organs (such as liver or lungs) as well as the heart. Split the data by the number undertaken into two categories, those undertaken at Newcastle and those at any other UK centre. For this cohort and the same provider split the number alive at 5 years.		
CAS-304616-Q0L3V6	24/07/2025	Heart and Lung
The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024 inclusive. The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. Please split Newcastle into adult and paediatrics. For the same cohort the number who were recorded in the following categories for: Complications - Return to Theatre (Yes, No, Not reported, Unknown)		
CAS-304880-S7J5N9	30/07/2025	Heart and Lung
The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2019 inclusive. The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. Further split this cohort into the number alive at 5 years and the number deceased, again by centre and organ (include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants). For the cohort that are alive at 5 years the mean, median, upper quartile and lower quartile creatinine levels at both transplant and 5 years. With the data split by organ and centre as before. Censor patients who do not have a creatinine recorded at either transplant or 5 years. For the cohort that have died before 5 years the mean, median, upper quartile, lower quartile creatinine levels at transplant and last recorded before death. With the data split by organ and centre as before. Censor patients who do not have creatinine recorded at transplant and at least one more recorded. The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2014 inclusive. The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. Further split this cohort into the number alive at 10 years and the number deceased, again by centre and organ (include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants) For the cohort that are alive at 10 years the mean, median, upper quartile and lower quartile creatinine levels at both transplant and 10 years. With the data split by organ and centre as before. Censor patients who do not have a creatinine recorded at either transplant or 10 years. For the cohort that have died before 10 years the mean, median, upper quartile, lower quartile creatinine levels at transplant and last recorded before death. With the data split by organ and centre as before. Censor patients who do not have creatinine recorded at transplant and at least one more recorded.		
CAS-305228-T2V1W1	06/08/2025	Heart and Lung
The number of heart and / or lung transplants undertaken between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024 inclusive. The number split by centre and organ and include heart / lung block transplants as lung transplants. Please split Newcastle into adult and paediatrics. For the same cohort the number who were recorded one or more rejection episodes at transplant, please also state the number where the figure is not reported or unknown. Please provide the data by the same centre and organ split.		
CAS-307185-W0C3P3	12/09/2025	Lung
The number of lung transplant undertaken in the UK between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2024 (inclusive) split by centre. For this total cohort and again split by centre the number recorded in the data field "complications - other mechanical assist post-op" recorded as yes, no, not reported and unknown.		
CAS-309940-K7M7K3	05/11/2025	Lung
Patients who are actively waiting for a Double Lung Transplant in the UK but who are on the 'Small Adult' criteria list. Dates from January 2025 - present day. 1) How many patients are currently waiting on the 'small adults list' in the U.K.?		

2) How many patients are waiting 2) How many patients are on the "small adults list for each category: routine, Urgent and super urgent? 3) How many offers of "Small lungs" have UK had? 4) How many of those "offers" have been viable and went ahead and patients had "small adult Double lungs' transplant?		
CAS-312608-P4N4D4	08/01/2026	Heart
As at the 5 Jan 2026 please could you tell me the number of people on the urgent or super-urgent waiting list for heart (including heart and any other organ(s)) transplantation. Please include active and suspended patients, and adults and children. Please provide a split of this number by the hospital they are listed under. For the total number waiting please state how many were first placed on the urgent or super urgent list on or before the following dates: 5 October 2025, 5 July 2025, 5 April 2025, 5 Jan 2025		
CAS-313094-Y6D1N2	16/01/2026	Heart
1. The number of people added to the paediatric heart transplant waiting list (any urgency) between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2023 for first time heart transplant only. Please split this number into the following categories: a) transplant b) death before transplant c) removal from waiting list d) still waiting 2. If patients transfer to an adult waiting list, then, if possible, provide the patient outcomes to the same 4 categories as above. If this is not possible then please add a fifth category to 1 above, i.e e) transferred to adult list.		
CAS-313283-S1D8D5	21/01/2026	Lung
1. How many individuals have been on the waitlist for a lung transplant in the UK each year, from 2020 to the most recent data held? 2. How many individuals have been on the waitlist for a lung transplant in the UK caused by silicosis lung disease each year, from 2020 to the most recent data held?		
CAS-313447-S3B1T4	26/01/2026	Heart and Lung
1. How many adult donor hearts were offered to the five adult cardiothoracic transplant centres (Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Papworth, Harefield) in the following financial years, and how many were transplanted. Please break the figures down for each centre. i) 2022-23 ii) 2023-24 iii) 2024-25 iv) 2025-26, to date 2. For each of the following financial years, how many adult donor hearts were declined for transplantation for a) logistical issues, and b) centre reasons. Please break the figures down for each cardiothoracic transplant centre. 'Logistical issues' may include things such as flight cancellations or traffic issues in transporting the organ. 'Centre reasons' may include things such as a lack of theatre space, available staff or a bed. If you do not hold data meeting this exact description, please provide the closest available data. i) 2022-23 ii) 2023-24 iii) 2024-25 iv) 2025-26, to date 3. How many adult donor lungs were offered to the five adult cardiothoracic transplant centres (Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Papworth, Harefield) for adult patients in the following financial years, and how many were transplanted. Please break the figures down for each centre. i) 2022-23 ii) 2023-24 iii) 2024-25 iv) 2025-26, to date		

4. For each of the following financial years, how many adult donor lungs were declined for transplantation for a) logistical issues, and b) centre reasons. Please break the figures down for each adult cardiothoracic transplant centre. 'Logistical issues' may include things such as flight cancellations or traffic issues in transporting the organ. 'Centre reasons' may include things such as a lack of theatre space, available staff and/or ICU bed. If you do not hold data meeting this exact description, please provide the closest available data.

- i) 2022-23
- ii) 2023-24
- iii) 2024-25
- iv) 2025-26, to date

5. How many donor hearts were offered to the two paediatric cardiothoracic transplant centres (Newcastle, GOSH) for child patients in the following financial years, and how many were transplanted. Please break the figures down for each centre.

- i) 2022-23
- ii) 2023-24
- iii) 2024-25
- iv) 2025-26, to date

6. For each of the following financial years, how many donor hearts were declined for transplantation in paediatric patients for a) logistical issues, and b) centre reasons. Please break the figures down for each paediatric cardiothoracic transplant centre.

'Logistical issues' may include things such as flight cancellations or traffic issues in transporting the organ. 'Centre reasons' may include things such as a lack of theatre space, available staff and/or ICU bed. If you do not hold data meeting this exact description, please provide the closest available data.

- i) 2022-23
- ii) 2023-24
- iii) 2024-25
- iv) 2025-26, to date

7. For both of England's paediatric cardiothoracic transplant centres (Newcastle and GOSH), how many paediatric patients currently on the i) heart transplant waiting list and ii) lung transplant waiting list have been in hospital for 180 days or more since the beginning of their current admission? Please break this figure down for each centre. Please explain if any instances include a patient needing a joint heart and lung transplantation.

CAS-314010-Q3M6Y6 11/02/2026 Heart and Lung

1. How many adult heart transplant patients, who are post-transplant, were under the care of each adult cardiothoracic transplant centre in the financial year 2024/25? Please break the figures down for each centre. (Please include patients who at any point in the financial year were under the centre's care, including those who had already been in their care before the start of the financial year, any patients who were transplanted during the year, and any patients who died/were discharged/changed service during the year)

2. In the financial year 2024/25, how many adult heart transplant patients required dialysis? Please break the figures down for each of the five adult cardiothoracic transplant centres. (Please include patients who required dialysis at any point in the financial year, whether or not the dialysis began in 2024/25 or a previous financial year)

3. How many adult lung transplant patients, who are post-transplant, were under the care of each adult cardiothoracic transplant centre in the financial year 2024/25? Please break the figures down for each centre. (Please include patients who at any point in the financial year were under the centre's care, including those who had already been in their care before the start of the financial year, any patients who were transplanted during the year, and any patients who died/were discharged/changed service during the year)

4. In the financial year 2024/25, how many adult lung transplant patients required dialysis? Please break the figures down for each of the five adult cardiothoracic transplant centres. (Please include patients who required dialysis at any point in the financial year, whether or not the dialysis began in 2024/25 or a previous financial year)

5. How much funding was provided to Trusts in the following financial years for the retrieval of hearts and lungs? Please can this include all funding elements (such as staff costs, perfusion equipment etc) and be broken down by trust

- i) 2014-15

- ii) 2020-21
 - iii) 2021-22
 - iv) 2022-23
 - v) 2023-24
 - vi) 2024-25
 - vii) 2025-26 (the amount allocated/estimated for each centre)
6. How much funding was provided to Trusts in the following financial years for perfusion equipment for the retrieval of adult hearts and lungs? Please can this be broken down per Trust
- i) 2014-15
 - ii) 2020-21
 - iii) 2021-22
 - iv) 2022-23
 - v) 2023-24
 - vi) 2024-25
 - vii) 2025-26 (the amount allocated/estimated for each centre)