



Summary of Donor and Transplant Activity

In the financial year to 31 March 2026, compared with the previous year:

- There was a 2% increase in the number of deceased donors to 1,428
- The number of donors after brain death decreased by 6% to 636, while the number of donors after circulatory death increased by 9% to 792
- The number of living donors increased by 2% to 1,017, accounting for 42% of the total number of organ donors
- The total number of patients whose lives were potentially saved or improved by an organ transplant increased by 2% to 4,666

The total number of patients registered for a transplant has increased (by 2%), so that:

- There were 8,296 patients waiting for a transplant at the end of March 2026, with a further 4,139 temporarily suspended from transplant lists. While kidney and pancreas lists rose, those for liver and cardiothoracic organs fell by 7% and 4%, respectively
- 434 patients died while on the active list waiting for their transplant compared with 463 in the previous year, a decrease of 6%. A further 899 patients were removed from the transplant list. The removals were mostly as a result of deteriorating health and ineligibility for transplant and many of these patients are likely to have died shortly afterwards

Some of the other key messages from this report are that, compared with last year, there has been:

- A decrease of 1% in the total number of kidney transplants
- An increase of 6% in the total number of transplants involving a pancreas
- An increase of 4% in the total number of liver transplants
- An increase of 8% in the total number of heart transplants
- An increase of 26% in the total number of lung or heart-lung transplants
- No change in the total number of intestinal transplants
- An increase of 12% in the total number of corneas retrieved to NHSBT Eye Banks and an increase of 6% in the total number of corneal transplants
- A continuation of the high overall referral rate of potential donors at 95%
- A consistently high proportion of approaches to donor families where a Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation was present at 93%
- A decrease in the overall consent/authorisation rate for organ donation from 59% to 57%
- Just over 28.7 million opt-in registrations and just over 2.9 million opt-out registrations on the Organ Donor Register (ODR) at the end of March 2026