

Kidney Activity

Key messages

- The number of patients active on the kidney transplant list as at 31 March increased to 7,203
- The number of deceased kidney donors decreased by 1% to 1,350
- Kidney transplants from living donors increased by 2% to 984, while transplants from deceased donors decreased by 2% to 2,294
- 117 kidney transplants were made possible by the paired/pooled exchanges with the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme (27 2-transplant cycles and 21 3-transplant cycles)
- There were 58 non-directed altruistic living kidney donors, leading to 102 patients benefitting from a living donor transplant

5.1 Overview

The number of deceased kidney donors decreased by 1% in 2025-2026 compared to 2024-2025 and the number of deceased donor kidney transplants decreased by 2%. There were 7,203 patients waiting for a kidney transplant at 31 March 2026.

A summary of activity for deceased donor kidney transplants and the transplant list at year end for the last ten years is shown in **Figure 5.1**. The number of patients registered on the active transplant list at 31 March 2026 for a kidney only or multi-organ kidney transplant has increased by 38% since 31 March 2017. These registrations include patients suspended on the kidney waiting list but active on the liver waiting list for a combined liver and kidney transplant.

The National Kidney Offering Scheme offers kidneys from both donors after brain death and donors after circulatory death. The scheme has two tiers, with priority going to patients who are the most difficult to match or who have waited over 7 years for a transplant. It replace the previous scheme in 2019,

Table 5.1 shows the number of deceased and living donor kidney transplants carried out in 2025-2026 at each centre. Donation figures for centres in London are not reported individually as they have shared designated areas and donor populations. Multi-organ transplants including a kidney are included in the table. Many of the transplant centres work as part of collaborative partnerships with other centres. Where a centre has performed a transplant on behalf of another centre, the transplant is attributed to the centre where the transplant was performed.

The total number of deceased kidney donors decreased to 1,350 in 2025-2026 from 1,360 in 2024-2025 and the number of transplants decreased from 2,337 to 2,294. The number of kidney donors after circulatory death increased to 757 from 710 in 2024-2025 and the number of transplants from such donors increased by 7% to 1,260.

Throughout this chapter, intestinal transplants involving a kidney are not included in the kidney transplant activity reported. Any kidneys retrieved and used for such transplants are however reported in the kidney donor activity. Intestinal transplant activity is reported in Chapter 9.



Figure 5.1 Deceased donor kidney programme in the UK, 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2026,
Number of donors, transplants and patients on the active transplant list at 31 March

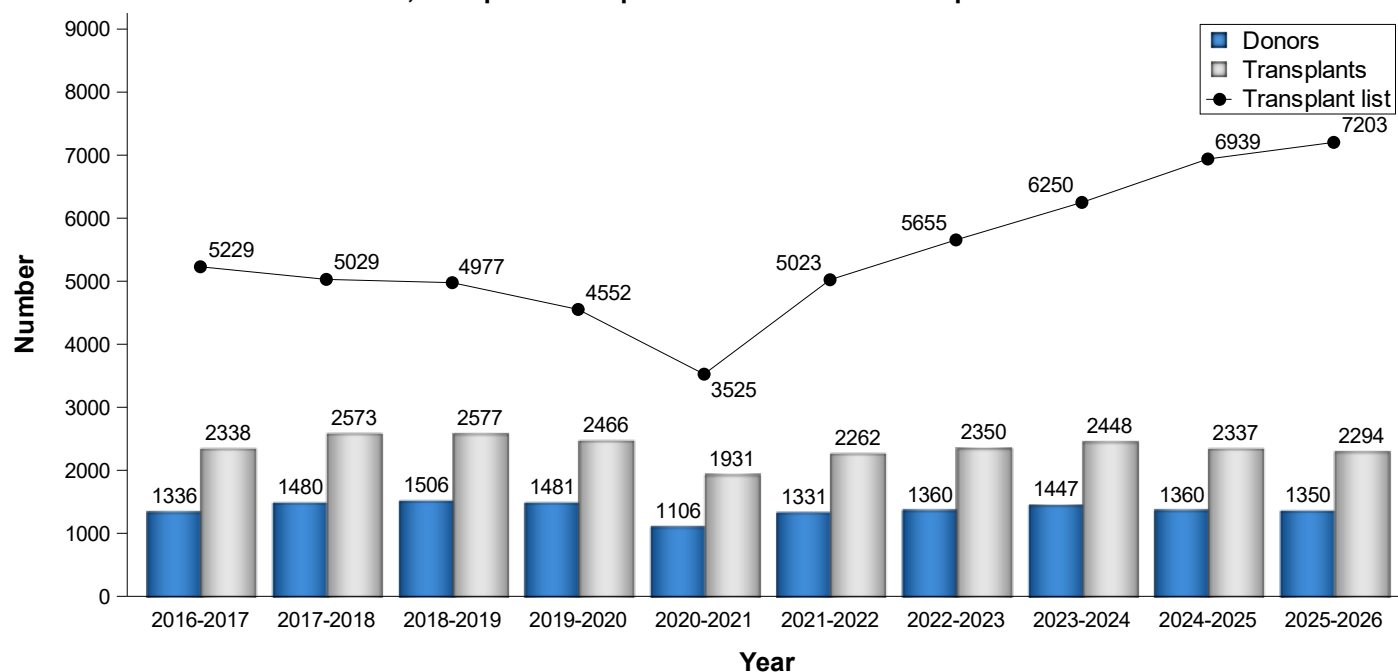


Table 5.1 Kidney donors and transplants, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 (2024-2025) and transplant list at 31 March 2026 (2025) in the UK, by centre

Centre	Deceased kidney donors				Deceased donor transplants				Living donor transplants		Active transplant list	
	DBD		DCD		DBD		DCD					
Belfast	25	(25)	25	(18)	7	(13)	16	(15)	67	(62)	91	(90)
Birmingham	29	(44)	42	(54)	68	(81)	108	(82)	55	(54)	593	(545)
Bristol	30	(32)	49	(38)	29	(39)	43	(40)	43	(47)	235	(258)
Cambridge	26	(16)	45	(52)	68	(52)	97	(111)	29	(22)	292	(260)
Cardiff	30	(29)	31	(25)	37	(36)	51	(52)	37	(48)	220	(192)
Coventry	14	(18)	12	(13)	24	(21)	22	(29)	25	(18)	183	(166)
Edinburgh	11	(13)	23	(24)	46	(40)	22	(29)	40	(43)	251	(262)
Glasgow	23	(36)	40	(36)	33	(47)	48	(29)	51	(52)	284	(277)
Leeds	41	(35)	51	(43)	54	(63)	78	(69)	51	(53)	415	(432)
Leicester	15	(19)	23	(27)	31	(44)	51	(52)	19	(26)	271	(302)
Liverpool	16	(15)	22	(21)	26	(45)	37	(41)	30	(32)	220	(205)
London ¹	170	(195)	208	(184)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Ormond Street	-	-	-	-	7	(3)	3	(2)	16	(21)	17	(23)
Guy's	-	-	-	-	99	(95)	105	(89)	90	(74)	412	(404)
Royal Free	-	-	-	-	43	(63)	57	(51)	35	(24)	328	(305)
Royal London	-	-	-	-	66	(58)	65	(67)	49	(33)	374	(384)
St George's	-	-	-	-	51	(52)	61	(58)	27	(41)	313	(272)
ICHNT	-	-	-	-	69	(69)	65	(59)	35	(37)	386	(399)
Manchester	46	(50)	49	(43)	97	(100)	130	(97)	80	(67)	742	(718)
Newcastle	27	(27)	24	(21)	42	(47)	36	(48)	48	(39)	383	(335)
Nottingham	21	(19)	18	(19)	15	(29)	21	(16)	28	(24)	215	(185)
Oxford	19	(19)	30	(25)	65	(84)	81	(77)	63	(63)	429	(406)
Plymouth	19	(14)	17	(27)	11	(12)	17	(16)	16	(24)	114	(119)
Portsmouth	20	(29)	28	(29)	27	(42)	32	(23)	28	(28)	260	(248)
Sheffield	11	(15)	20	(11)	19	(27)	14	(23)	15	(21)	175	(152)
TOTAL	593	(650)	757	(710)	1034	(1162)	1260	(1175)	984^{2,4}	(968^{3,5})	7203	(6939)

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¹ Donor figures in this area cannot be linked to individual transplant centres due to shared retrieval areas.

² Includes an additional 2 transplants performed at London, Cromwell Hospital, 3 transplants performed at London, London Bridge Hospital and 2 transplants performed at London, The London Clinic

³ Includes an additional 8 transplants performed at London, Cromwell Hospital, 4 transplants performed at London, London Bridge Hospital and 3 transplants performed at London, The London Clinic

⁴ Includes 1 domino donor

⁵ Includes 1 domino donor

5.2 Transplant list

The number of patients registered on the kidney or kidney and pancreas transplant list increased in the year: on 31 March 2026, 7,203 patients were registered as active, compared with 6,939 at the end of March 2025.

Of the 7,203 patients on the active transplant list at 31 March 2026, 355 required a kidney and pancreas/islet transplant (344 at 31 March 2025).

The outcome of patients registered on the UK kidney and kidney/pancreas transplant list at 1 April 2025, or subsequently registered during the financial year, is shown in **Table 5.2**. A total of 4,435 patients joined the kidney transplant list last year, while a further 195 joined the kidney/pancreas transplant list.

Table 5.2 Kidney transplant list and new registrations in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026						
Outcome of patient at 31 March 2026	Active and suspended patients at 1 April 2025		New registrations in 2025-2026 ¹		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kidney transplant list						
Remained active/suspended	7087	71	3438	78	10525	73
Transplanted	2134	21	925	21	3059	21
Removed ²	509	5	35	1	544	4
Died	267	3	37	1	304	2
TOTAL	9997		4435		14432	
Kidney/pancreas transplant list						
Remained active/suspended	355	69	175	90	530	74
Transplanted	105	20	18	9	123	17
Removed ³	33	6	2	1	35	5
Died	24	5	0	0	24	3
TOTAL	517		195		712	
¹ Includes re-registrations for second or subsequent patients						
² Includes 2 patients removed from kidney list and made active on kidney/pancreas list						
³ Includes 11 patients removed from kidney/pancreas list and made active on kidney/islet list						

Table 5.3 shows the active transplant list in the UK at 31 March 2026 and 2025 by country/NHS region of patient's residence. In 2026, the overall kidney transplant list rate was 103.6 pmp with rates across NHS regions ranging from 80.4 pmp to 139.3 pmp.

Table 5.3 Active kidney transplant list at 31 March, by Country/ NHS region of patient residence

Country/ NHS region of residence	Kidney transplant list (pmp)			
	2026		2025	
North East and Yorkshire	987	(116.8)	924	(109.3)
North West	810	(104.8)	781	(101.0)
Midlands	1340	(118.9)	1282	(113.8)
East of England	542	(82.4)	482	(73.3)
London	1270	(139.3)	1280	(140.4)
South East	775	(80.4)	725	(75.2)
South West	524	(88.5)	533	(90.0)
England	6248	(106.4)	6007	(102.3)
Isle of Man	18	(225.0)	12	(150.0)
Channel Islands	9	(52.9)	10	(58.8)
Wales	290	(90.1)	264	(82.0)
Scotland	530	(94.6)	533	(95.2)
Northern Ireland	98	(50.0)	98	(50.0)
TOTAL¹	7203	(103.6)	6939	(99.8)

¹Includes patients in 2026 (2025) residing in: Unspecified UK 6 (10); Republic of Ireland 2 (2); Overseas 2 (3)

An indication of outcomes for adult patients listed for a kidney only transplant is summarised in **Figure 5.2**. This shows the proportion of patients transplanted or still waiting one, three and five years after joining the list. It also shows the proportion removed from the transplant list (typically because they become too unwell for transplant) and those dying while on the transplant list. Only 38% of patients are transplanted within one year, while five years after listing 77% of patients have received a transplant.

The median (average) waiting time for a kidney only transplant has increased from 503 days reported last year to 547 days for an adult patient and is shown by blood group in **Table 5.4** and patient ethnicity in **Table 5.5**. Because of the need to match donor and recipient blood groups and tissue types, waiting times to transplant differ according to patient blood groups and ethnicity due to differences between the donor pool and patients awaiting a kidney transplant. Note that these waiting times are not adjusted for other relevant factors which may be influential and which may differ across blood or ethnic groups.

Figure 5.2 Post-registration outcome for 2329 new adult kidney only registrations made in the UK, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

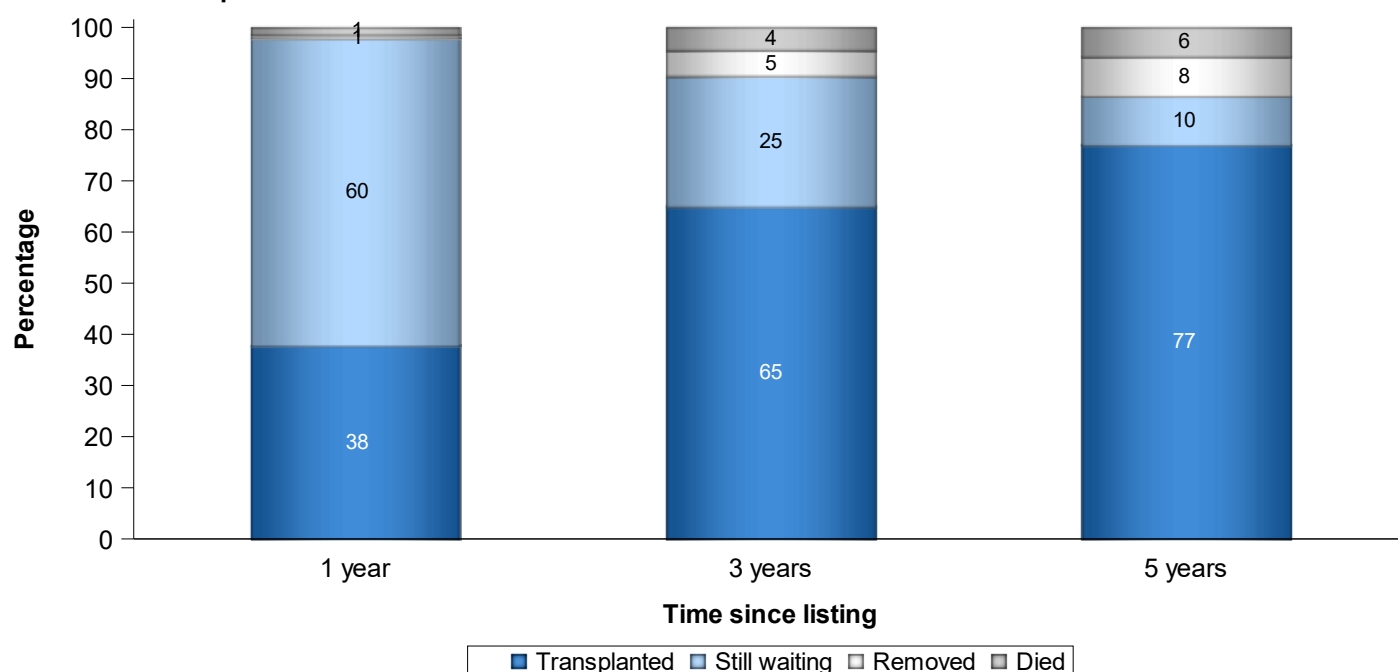


Table 5.4 Median waiting time to kidney only transplant in the UK, for patients registered 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2023

Blood group	Number of patients registered	Waiting time (days)	
		Median	95% Confidence interval
Adult			
O	5190	826	792 - 860
A	4147	290	274 - 306
B	1787	1029	969 - 1089
AB	504	156	127 - 185
TOTAL	11628	547	528 - 566
Paediatric			
O	130	558	413 - 703
A	83	301	238 - 364
B	39	763	681 - 845
AB	17	309	0 - 657
TOTAL	269	450	347 - 553

Table 5.5 Median waiting time to kidney only transplant in the UK, for patients registered 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2023

Ethnicity	Number of patients registered	Waiting time (days)	
		Median	95% Confidence interval
Adult			
White	7445	501	479 - 523
Asian	2167	648	598 - 698
Black	1329	593	534 - 652
Other	396	577	463 - 691
TOTAL¹	11628	547	528 - 566
Paediatric			
White	144	347	283 - 411
Asian	69	709	612 - 806
Black	25	350	275 - 425
Other	19	761	597 - 925
TOTAL²	269	450	347 - 553

¹ Includes 291 patients whose ethnicity was not reported

² Includes 12 patients whose ethnicity was not reported

5.3 Donor and organ supply

Of the 636 organ donors after brain death in the UK in 2025-2026, 593 (93%) were kidney donors. From these donors, 1,167 kidneys were retrieved. There were 757 kidney donors after circulatory death in 2025-2026. From these donors, 1,497 kidneys were retrieved. **Table 5.6** shows this activity by donor country/NHS region of donor's residence. No adjustments have been made for potential demographic differences in populations.

The overall rate for kidney donors after brain death is 8.5 pmp, with rates across NHS regions ranging from 6.7 to 9.9 pmp. The number of kidneys retrieved from donors after brain death in the UK is 16.8 pmp and varies from 13.3 to 19.3 pmp.

The overall rate for kidney donors after circulatory death is 10.9 pmp, with rates across NHS regions ranging from 5.6 to 16.4 pmp. The number of kidneys retrieved from donors after circulatory death is 21.5 pmp and varies from 11.1 to 32.7 pmp.

Table 5.6 Kidney donation and retrieval rates for deceased donors in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by Country/ NHS region								
Country/ NHS region of residence	Kidney donors (pmp)				Kidneys retrieved (pmp)			
	DBD		DCD		DBD		DCD	
North East and Yorkshire	74	(8.8)	95	(11.2)	144	(17.0)	188	(22.2)
North West	52	(6.7)	58	(7.5)	103	(13.3)	113	(14.6)
Midlands	87	(7.7)	98	(8.7)	174	(15.4)	195	(17.3)
East of England	65	(9.9)	108	(16.4)	127	(19.3)	215	(32.7)
London	62	(6.8)	51	(5.6)	121	(13.3)	101	(11.1)
South East	68	(7.1)	111	(11.5)	130	(13.5)	220	(22.8)
South West	55	(9.3)	83	(14.0)	110	(18.6)	164	(27.7)
England	463	(7.9)	604	(10.3)	909	(15.5)	1196	(20.4)
Isle of Man	1	(12.5)	2	(25.0)	2	(25.0)	4	(50.0)
Channel Islands	3	(17.6)	2	(11.8)	6	(35.3)	4	(23.5)
Wales	34	(10.6)	38	(11.8)	68	(21.1)	75	(23.3)
Scotland	29	(5.2)	55	(9.8)	57	(10.2)	109	(19.5)
Northern Ireland	24	(12.2)	25	(12.8)	48	(24.5)	49	(25.0)
TOTAL¹	593	(8.5)	757	(10.9)	1167	(16.8)	1497	(21.5)
¹ Includes 70 donors with unknown UK postcode (39 DBD and 31 DCD)								

5.4 Transplants

The number of kidney only transplants by recipient country/NHS region of residence is shown in **Table 5.7**. No adjustments have been made for potential demographic differences in populations. The deceased donor transplant rate ranged from 23.1 to 52.7 pmp across NHS regions and overall was 31.1 pmp. The living donor transplant rate ranged from 11.1 to 15.2 pmp across NHS regions and overall was 13.9 pmp.

Table 5.7 Kidney only transplant rates per million population (pmp), in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by country and NHS region								
Country/ NHS region of residence	DBD		DCD		TOTAL		Living	
	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)
North East and Yorkshire	115	(13.6)	127	(15.0)	242	(28.6)	116	(13.7)
North West	88	(11.4)	140	(18.1)	228	(29.5)	103	(13.3)
Midlands	142	(12.6)	210	(18.6)	352	(31.2)	129	(11.4)
East of England	88	(13.4)	125	(19.0)	213	(32.4)	73	(11.1)
London	231	(25.3)	250	(27.4)	481	(52.7)	139	(15.2)
South East	110	(11.4)	130	(13.5)	240	(24.9)	126	(13.1)
South West	54	(9.1)	83	(14.0)	137	(23.1)	84	(14.2)
England	828	(14.1)	1065	(18.1)	1893	(32.2)	770	(13.1)
Isle of Man	1	(12.5)	2	(25.0)	3	(37.5)	0	(0.0)
Channel Islands	4	(23.5)	2	(11.8)	6	(35.3)	2	(11.8)
Wales	45	(14.0)	56	(17.4)	101	(31.4)	44	(13.7)
Scotland	66	(11.8)	66	(11.8)	132	(23.6)	90	(16.1)
Northern Ireland	7	(3.6)	16	(8.2)	23	(11.7)	59	(30.1)
TOTAL^{1,2}	952	(13.7)	1210	(17.4)	2162	(31.1)	968	(13.9)

¹ Excludes 16 recipients of a living donor kidney who reside outside of the UK
² Includes 7 recipients with an unknown UK postcode (1 DBD, 3 DCD and 3 living)

The number of kidney only transplants at each transplant centre is shown in **Table 5.8** for adult patients only. Kidney transplants from donors after brain death include 0 en bloc kidneys and 6 double kidney transplants in 2025-2026 (2 and 15 in 2024-2025, respectively). Kidney transplants from donors after circulatory death include 1 en bloc and 14 double kidney transplants in 2025-2026 (3 and 12 in 2024-2025, respectively). This table excludes multi-organ transplants: 7 (7) kidney and liver, 115 (113) kidney and pancreas, and 8 (9) kidney and islets in 2025-2026 (2024-2025).

**Table 5.8 Adult kidney only transplants in the UK,
1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026, by transplant centre**

Transplant centre	2024-2025				2025-2026			
	DBD	DCD	Living donor	TOTAL	DBD	DCD	Living donor	TOTAL
Belfast	13	15	61	89	6	16	65	87
Birmingham	75	79	49	203	64	106	50	220
Bristol	37	39	36	112	27	43	35	105
Cambridge	41	99	21	161	58	87	29	174
Cardiff	33	47	47	127	35	46	37	118
Coventry	21	29	18	68	24	22	25	71
Edinburgh	30	25	43	98	33	18	40	91
Glasgow	45	28	47	120	32	48	47	127
Great Ormond Street	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Guy's	83	84	63	230	83	97	70	250
ICHNT	64	58	37	159	65	64	35	164
Leeds	62	68	51	181	50	76	43	169
Leicester	44	52	25	121	31	51	19	101
Liverpool	45	41	32	118	26	37	30	93
Manchester	74	90	58	222	72	112	71	255
Newcastle	43	47	37	127	39	36	44	119
Nottingham	27	15	17	59	13	17	19	49
Oxford	59	66	63	188	46	68	63	177
Plymouth	12	16	24	52	11	17	16	44
Portsmouth	42	23	28	93	27	32	28	87
Sheffield	27	23	21	71	19	14	15	48
St George's	52	58	41	151	51	61	27	139
The Royal Free	63	51	24	138	42	57	35	134
The Royal London	58	67	33	158	66	65	49	180
TOTAL	1050	1120	891¹	3061¹	920	1190	900²	3010²

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¹ Includes 8 transplants performed at London Cromwell Hospital, 4 transplants performed at London Bridge Hospital and 3 transplants performed at London, The London Clinic

² Includes 2 transplants performed at London Cromwell Hospital and 3 transplants performed at London Bridge Hospital and 2 transplants performed at London, The London Clinic

Living donor kidney only transplants increased by 2% to 984 in 2025-2026, representing 30% of the total kidney transplant programme. The total number of living donor adult transplants performed by each transplant centre is shown in **Table 5.9**. Also shown is the number as a percentage of patients listed at the end of the year, to indicate the size of the living donor programme relative to the centre's transplant list.

Most living donor transplants are 'directed'. This means that a kidney is donated to a specific recipient known to the donor - a close family member or friend. There has been a 3% increase in these transplants. In addition, there are a number of transplants from non-directed altruistic donors. Last year 58 such donors donated a kidney to a recipient, 58 of which were transplanted into an adult recipient. Of the 58 non-directed altruistic donors, 28 donated into a non-directed altruistic donor chain (12 2-transplant chains and 16 3-transplant chains), benefiting 44 patients in the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme. The kidneys from the paired donors of these recipients led to 28 adult patients on the deceased donor transplant list receiving a transplant. Thus 58 non-directed altruistic donors created chains benefiting 102 patients in total (102 adult and 0 paediatric patients).

When a potential living donor and recipient are biologically incompatible (blood group or tissue type), they may consider joining a list of others in the same situation with the hope that an exchange of kidneys between them can lead to a compatible living donor transplant via the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme. The scheme also includes compatible pairs that would like a better match. This type of exchanges are known as transplant cycles and exchanges are between two pairs (i.e. two donors and their respective incompatible recipients), or between three pairs. In 2025-2026, there were 117 paired living kidney donor transplants (111 adult and 6 paediatric recipients).

As a percentage of the number of patients on the active transplant list at 31 March 2026, the number of living donor adult transplants in the year was 13% nationally and ranged from 0% to 71% at individual transplant centres.

Table 5.9 Adult living donor kidney transplants in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, and percentage of active transplant list at 31 March, by transplant centre

Transplant centre	Directed	Non-directed (altruistic) to waiting list	Paired/ pooled exchanges	Non- directed altruistic donor chain	TOTAL	
					N	% list
Belfast	46	1	14	4	65	71
Birmingham	37	0	6	7	50	9
Bristol	31	0	3	1	35	15
Cambridge	26	0	1	2	29	10
Cardiff	32	0	4	1	37	17
Coventry	17	3	3	2	25	14
Edinburgh	34	0	3	3	40	16
Glasgow	33	3	6	5	47	17
Great Ormond Street	1	0	0	0	1	0
Guy's	53	3	9	5	70	18
ICHNT	26	0	3	6	35	9
Leeds	28	5	10	0	43	11
Leicester	16	0	2	1	19	7
Liverpool	21	0	4	5	30	14
Manchester	60	1	5	5	71	10
Newcastle	30	0	9	5	44	12
Nottingham	12	1	3	3	19	10
Oxford	43	4	9	7	63	15
Plymouth	12	0	2	2	16	14
Portsmouth	22	3	2	1	28	11
Sheffield	13	1	0	1	15	9
St George's	22	2	2	1	27	9
The Royal Free	31	1	1	2	35	11
The Royal London	31	3	10	5	49	13
TOTAL¹	684	31²	111	74	900	13

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¹ Includes 2 transplants performed at The London Clinic, 2 at London Cromwell and 3 at London Bridge

² Includes 1 domino donor transplant

Non-directed altruistic donor kidneys are matched to a suitable recipient on a national basis and thus are rarely used in the transplant centre responsible for the 'work-up' of the donor. The number of non-directed donors according to donor hospital (rather than transplant hospital) and whether the altruistic donor donated as part of a chain within the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme or directly to the deceased donor list is shown in **Table 5.10**.

Table 5.10 Non-directed altruistic kidney donors in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026, by donor centre								
Donor centre	Transplant list	2024-2025 Donation to			Transplant list	2025-2026 Donation to		
		Chain	Total	%		Chain	Total	%
Belfast	4	1	5	8	2	0	2	3
Birmingham	1	4	5	8	2	2	4	7
Bristol	4	0	4	7	2	4	6	10
Cambridge	2	1	3	5	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	2	0	2	3	2	1	3	5
Coventry	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	2
Edinburgh	2	0	2	3	3	1	4	7
Glasgow	2	2	4	7	0	0	0	0
Guy's	1	3	4	7	1	1	2	3
ICHNT	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	2
Leeds	0	2	2	3	4	0	4	7
Leicester	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	2
Manchester	5	1	6	10	0	2	2	3
Newcastle	2	2	4	7	1	0	1	2
Nottingham	2	0	2	3	1	0	1	2
Oxford	1	1	2	3	4	4	8	14
Plymouth	2	2	4	7	1	0	1	2
Portsmouth	2	1	3	5	2	8	10	17
Sheffield	1	1	2	3	0	4	4	7
St George's	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
The Royal Free	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
The Royal London	0	2	2	3	2	0	2	3
Total donors	36	25	61	100	30	28	58	100
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The number of deceased donor and living donor transplants in paediatric patients (<18 years) performed by each paediatric transplant centre is shown in **Table 5.11**. There were 84 living donor transplants and 53 deceased donor transplants in paediatric patients in 2025-2026. The paediatric transplant list has decreased by 9% from 151 patients at 31 March 2025 to 138 at the end of March 2026.

Table 5.11 Paediatric kidney only transplants in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026, by transplant centre								
Transplant centre	2024-2025				2025-2026			
	DBD	DCD	Living donor	TOTAL	DBD	DCD	Living donor	TOTAL
Belfast	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	3
Birmingham	5	3	5	13	3	2	5	10
Bristol	2	1	11	14	2	0	8	10
Glasgow	2	1	5	8	1	0	4	5
Great Ormond Street	3	2	21	26	7	3	15	25
Guy's	1	1	11	13	6	3	20	29
Leeds	1	1	2	4	4	2	8	14
Manchester	7	3	9	19	6	6	9	21
Newcastle	0	0	2	2	1	0	4	5
Nottingham	2	1	7	10	2	4	9	15
Adult centres	1	1	3	5	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	24	14	77¹	115	33	20	84²	137
¹ Includes 5 as part of transplant cycles and 2 as part of transplant chains in the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme								
² Includes 6 as part of transplant cycles and 0 as part of transplant chains in the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme								

At 31 March 2026, there were approximately 47,200 recipients with a functioning kidney transplant (including multi-organ transplants) being followed-up as reported to the UK Transplant Registry.

Rates of pre-emptive kidney only transplantation are shown in **Table 5.12**. Of the 3,147 kidney only transplant recipients in 2025-2026, dialysis status at time of transplant was reported for 2,810 (89%). Of these 2,810 transplants, 564 (20%) were carried out in pre-dialysis patients.

Pre-emptive transplants accounted for 26% of all paediatric kidney only transplants with reported dialysis status, compared with 20% of those in adults. Overall, living donor transplants are more likely to be carried out before the need for dialysis than deceased donor transplants: 37% and 13% respectively. This is because a living donor transplant can often be carried out more quickly than a deceased donor kidney transplant as the latter often necessitates a long waiting time.

Table 5.12 Pre-emptive kidney only transplants in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026			
	Number of kidney only transplants	Number of transplants with known dialysis status at transplant (% of all)	Percentage of patients transplanted prior to the need for dialysis (of those with known status)
Adult			
Deceased donor transplant	2110	1891 (89.6)	(12.4)
Living donor transplant	900	790 (87.8)	(37.5)
Paediatric			
Deceased donor transplant	53	51 (96.2)	(19.6)
Living donor transplant	84	78 (92.9)	(29.5)

The length of time that elapses between a kidney being removed from the donor to its transplantation into the recipient is called total preservation time. Generally, the shorter this time, the more likely the kidney is to work immediately and the better the long-term outcome. The factors which determine this time include a) transportation of the kidney from the retrieval hospital to the hospital where the transplant is performed, b) the need to tissue type the donor and cross-match the donor and potential recipients, c) the occasional necessity of moving the kidney to another hospital if a transplant cannot go ahead, d) contacting and preparing the recipient for the transplant and e) access to the operating theatre. Median total preservation times are shown in addition to inter-quartile ranges in **Table 5.13**.

Table 5.13 Median cold ischaemia time for kidney only transplants in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026				
	Number of kidney only transplants ¹	Median (hours)	Inter-quartile range ²	
			Q1	Q3
Adult				
DBD donor transplant	920	12.4	10.0	16.7
DCD donor transplant	1190	12.4	9.9	16.5
Total	2110	12.4	9.9	16.6
Paediatric				
DBD donor transplant	33	11.6	9.8	13.6
DCD donor transplant	20	10.8	9.7	12.3
Total	53	10.9	9.8	12.8
TOTAL	2163	12.4	9.9	16.5

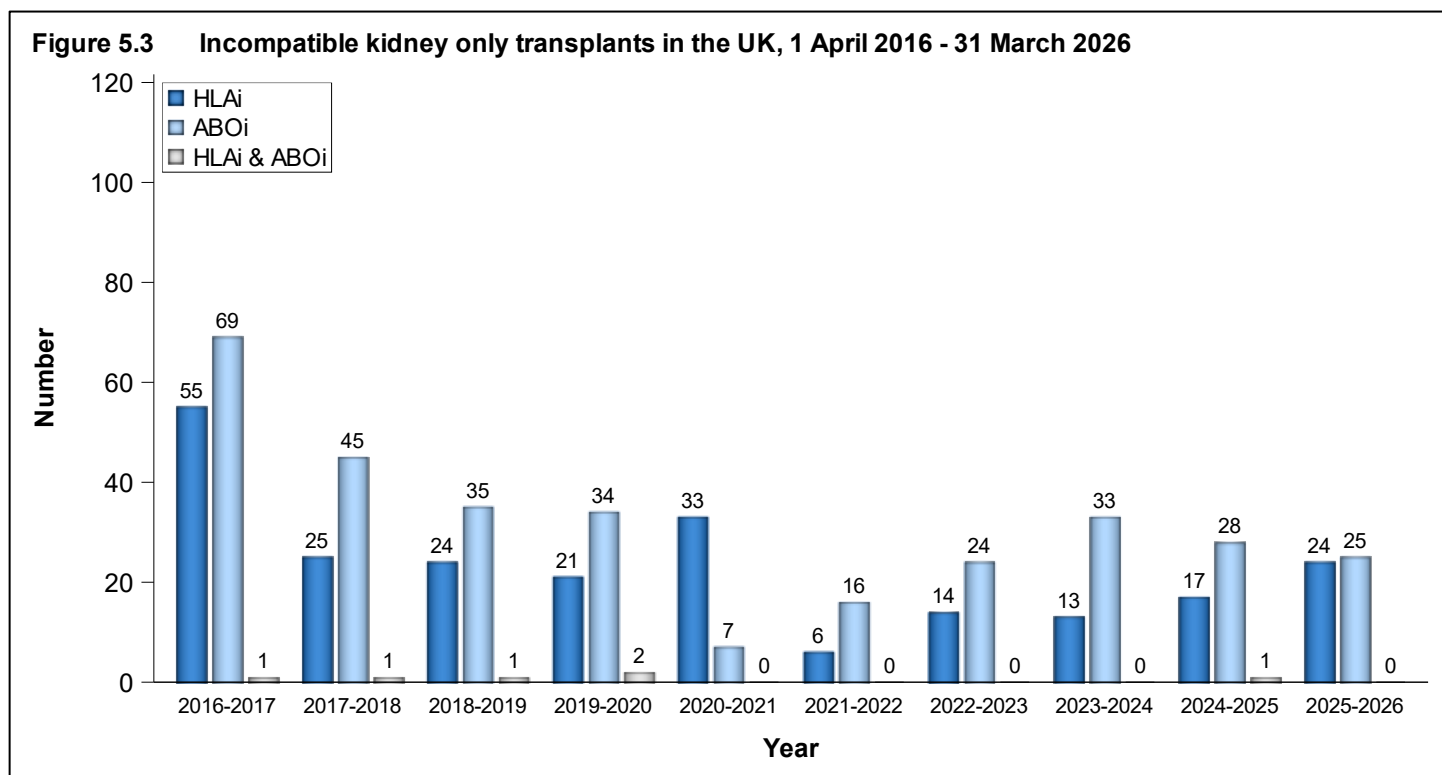
¹ Not all cold ischaemia times are reported
² 25% of times are shorter than Q1, 25% are longer than Q3

Kidneys from donors after brain death and donors after circulatory death are allocated on the basis of a national Kidney Offering Scheme which incorporates HLA matching between donor and recipient. These HLA matches are based on four levels which are described in **Table 5.14**. Prior to 11 September 2019 patients with 000 HLA-A, B, DR mismatch (Level 1) were prioritised in the scheme, whereas kidneys were rarely transplanted as a Level 4 mismatch. Under the current scheme, Level 4 mismatches are only permitted for difficult to match patients. More information about the allocation scheme can be found at www.odt.nhs.uk. **Table 5.15** gives the HLA mismatch group for adult and paediatric patients for DBD donor transplants but also for DCD and living donor transplants.

Table 5.14 HLA mismatch groups		
Level	HLA mismatch summary	HLA mismatch combinations included
1	000	000
2	[0 DR and 0/1 B]	100, 010, 110, 200, 210, 001, 101, 201
3	[0 DR and 2 B] or [1 DR and 0/1 B]	020, 120, 220, 011, 111, 211
4	[1 DR and 2 B] or [2 DR]	021, 121, 221, 002, 102, 202, 012, 112, 212, 022, 122, 222

Table 5.15 HLA matching for kidney only transplants in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026						
	DBD		DCD		Living	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Adult						
Level 1 (Best match)	27	(3)	21	(2)	67	(10)
Level 2	206	(22)	236	(20)	76	(11)
Level 3	356	(39)	518	(44)	337	(48)
Level 4	329	(36)	413	(35)	216	(31)
Not reported	2	-	2	-	204	-
Paediatric						
Level 1 (Best match)	2	(6)	0	(0)	3	(5)
Level 2	18	(55)	16	(80)	7	(12)
Level 3	11	(33)	2	(10)	42	(71)
Level 4	2	(6)	2	(10)	7	(12)
Not reported	0	-	0	-	25	-

Often potential living donors and their recipients are HLA or blood group incompatible. Increasingly it is possible to proceed with transplantation across the incompatibilities with appropriate management. The number of HLA and ABO blood group incompatible transplants over the last ten years is shown in **Figure 5.3**. Of the 238 HLA incompatible (HLAi) transplants performed; 123 were deceased donor transplants and 115 were living donor transplants, whilst the vast majority of ABO incompatible (ABOi) transplants were living donor transplants (319 of 322). The UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme has contributed to the decrease in incompatible transplants over the past ten years, through the potential for incompatible pairs to receive a compatible transplant via paired exchanges. Due to the nature of reporting HLA incompatible transplants, the numbers presented may be subject to change over time.



5.5 Demographic characteristics

The age group, sex, ethnicity and blood group of deceased donors, transplant recipients and patients on the transplant list are shown in **Table 5.16** and for living donors and transplants in **Table 5.17**. Note that all percentages quoted are based only on data where relevant information was available.

Table 5.16 Demographic characteristics of deceased kidney donors and transplant recipients, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, and transplant list patients at 31 March							
		Donors		Transplant recipients		Active transplant list patients	
		N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Age	0-17	27	(2)	54	(2)	138	(2)
	18-34	145	(11)	268	(12)	777	(11)
	35-49	310	(23)	540	(24)	2063	(29)
	50-59	290	(21)	534	(23)	2062	(29)
	60-69	342	(25)	618	(27)	1667	(23)
	70+	236	(17)	280	(12)	496	(7)
	Mean (SD)	54	(16)	53	(15)	51	(14)
Sex	Male	799	(59)	1415	(62)	4440	(62)
	Female	551	(41)	879	(38)	2738	(38)
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	25	-
Ethnicity	White	1215	(94)	1350	(62)	4349	(64)
	Asian	47	(4)	431	(20)	1386	(21)
	Black	16	(1)	345	(16)	813	(12)
	Other	19	(1)	52	(2)	205	(3)
	Unknown	53	-	116	-	450	-
Blood group	O	621	(46)	912	(40)	3938	(55)
	A	564	(42)	962	(42)	1805	(25)
	B	127	(9)	307	(13)	1326	(18)
	AB	37	(3)	113	(5)	134	(2)
	Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-
Graft number	First graft	-	-	1906	(83)	6097	(85)
	Re-graft	-	-	388	(17)	1106	(15)
TOTAL		1350	(100)	2294	(100)	7203	(100)

Table 5.17 Demographic characteristics of living kidney donors and transplant recipients, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

		Donors		Transplant recipients	
		N	(%)	N	(%)
Age	0-17	0	(0)	84	(9)
	18-34	155	(16)	176	(18)
	35-49	362	(37)	255	(26)
	50-59	254	(26)	223	(23)
	60-69	173	(18)	193	(20)
	70+	40	(4)	53	(5)
	Mean (SD)	49	(13)	45	(17)
Sex	Male	447	(45)	591	(60)
	Female	537	(55)	389	(40)
	Unknown	-	-	4	-
Ethnicity	White	863	(88)	776	(84)
	Asian	74	(8)	88	(10)
	Black	27	(3)	39	(4)
	Other	20	(2)	21	(2)
	Unknown	0	-	60	-
Blood group	O	578	(59)	422	(43)
	A	291	(30)	387	(39)
	B	99	(10)	134	(14)
	AB	16	(2)	41	(4)
	Unknown	-	-	-	-
Graft number	First graft	-	-	850	(86)
	Re-graft	-	-	134	(14)
TOTAL		984	(100)	984	(100)