

National Potential Donor Audit

Key messages

- There were 33,253 audited deaths reported through the Potential Donor Audit in the financial year to 31 March 2026, including 1,405 (98.4%) of the 1,428 deceased organ donors.
- Compared to the previous financial year, the overall referral rate of potential donors has increased slightly from 94% in 2024/25 to 95% in 2025/26. The proportion of donation decision conversations where a Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation was present has risen slightly in 2025/26 from 92% to 93%, and the overall consent/authorisation rate continues to decline in 2025/26, from 59% to 57%.
- The consent/authorisation rate was 87% when a patient had expressed an opt in decision, but 167 families overruled their loved one's decision to be an organ donor.
- A significant difference is still apparent in the consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups (62% and 29% respectively).

13.1 Introduction

In this chapter, summary data from the National Potential Donor Audit (PDA) are shown for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and data from the previous three financial years are also provided for comparison purposes. The data comprise all audited patient deaths in UK Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and emergency departments, excluding wards and patients over 80 years of age, in the time period. Paediatric ICU data are included however neonatal ICU data have been excluded. The data are based on information received by 7 May 2026. **The number of solid organ donors reported in this chapter will differ from that shown in the rest of the report, due to the national PDA excluding specific patients.**

13.2 Definitions

All data shown in this chapter use the following definitions.

Eligible donors after brain death (DBD) are defined as patients for whom death was confirmed following neurological tests and who had no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

Eligible donors after circulatory death (DCD) are defined as patients who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated, with no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

Absolute medical contraindications to organ donation are listed here:
<https://nhsbtdbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/32650/pol188.pdf>

Imminent death anticipated patients who are not confirmed dead using neurological criteria, receiving invasive ventilation, a clinical decision to withdraw treatment has been made and a controlled death is anticipated within a time frame to allow donation to occur.

Neurological death suspected patients who meet all of the following criteria: invasive ventilation, Glasgow Coma Scale 3 not explained by sedation, no respiratory effort, fixed pupils, no cough or gag reflex. Excluding those not tested as cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation, brain stem reflexes returned, or neonates less than 2 months post term.

Neurological death testing rate is the percentage of patients for whom neurological death was suspected who were tested.

Referral rate is the percentage of patients for whom neurological death was suspected or imminent death was anticipated, who were referred to the Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SNOD).

Donation decision conversation is where the family of eligible donors are asked to make or support patient's organ donation decision, this includes clarifying an opt out decision.

SNOD presence rate is the percentage of eligible donor donation decision conversations where a SNOD was present (includes telephone and video call conversations).

Deemed consent applies if a person who died in Wales, England, Jersey, Guernsey or Northern Ireland meets deemed consent criteria: aged 18 or over, has not expressed an organ donation decision either to opt in, opt out or appoint a representative, has lived for longer than 12 months and is ordinarily resident in the country in which they died, and had the capacity to understand the notion of deemed consent for a significant period before their death. Note that where a patient has verbally expressed an opt out or opt in decision deemed consent does not apply.

Deemed authorisation applies if a person, who died in Scotland, meets deemed authorisation criteria: aged 16 or over, has not registered or expressed, in writing, an organ donation decision either to opt in or opt out, has lived for longer than 12 months and is ordinarily resident in Scotland, and had the capacity to understand the notion of deemed authorisation for a significant period before their death. Note that, in Scotland, a patient who has verbally expressed an opt in decision is included as a deemed authorisation, whereas a patient who has verbally expressed an opt out decision is not included.

Consent/authorisation rate is the percentage of eligible donor donation decision conversations where consent/authorisation was ascertained. Note that consent/authorisation rates have not been provided where the number of donation decision conversations is less than ten.

13.3 Breakdown of audited deaths in ICUs and emergency departments, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

In the 12-month period there were a total of 33,253 audited patient deaths in the UK. **Figures 13.1 and 13.2** show a detailed breakdown from the number of audited patient deaths to the number of solid organ donors for potential DBD and DCD donors, respectively. In total there were 1,405 solid organ donors reported through the PDA, 98.4% of the total 1,428 deceased solid organ donors.

Table 13.1 shows the key percentages calculated from the flow chart information and **Table 13.2** provides a breakdown by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST). Consent/authorisation rates have also been provided, in **Table 13.1**, for cases where the SNOD was/was not present for the donation decision conversation and by whether there was an expressed opt in decision or consent/authorisation was deemed. Details of expressed opt in decision and deemed consent/authorisation overrides are included in the footnote of the table.

An expressed opt in decision override is a case where the family overruled their loved one's known decision to donate and includes decisions registered on the ODR, those expressed verbally, or via an appointed/nominated representative. A deemed consent/authorisation override is a case where the family did not support deemed consent/authorisation.

Figure 13.1 Donation after brain death

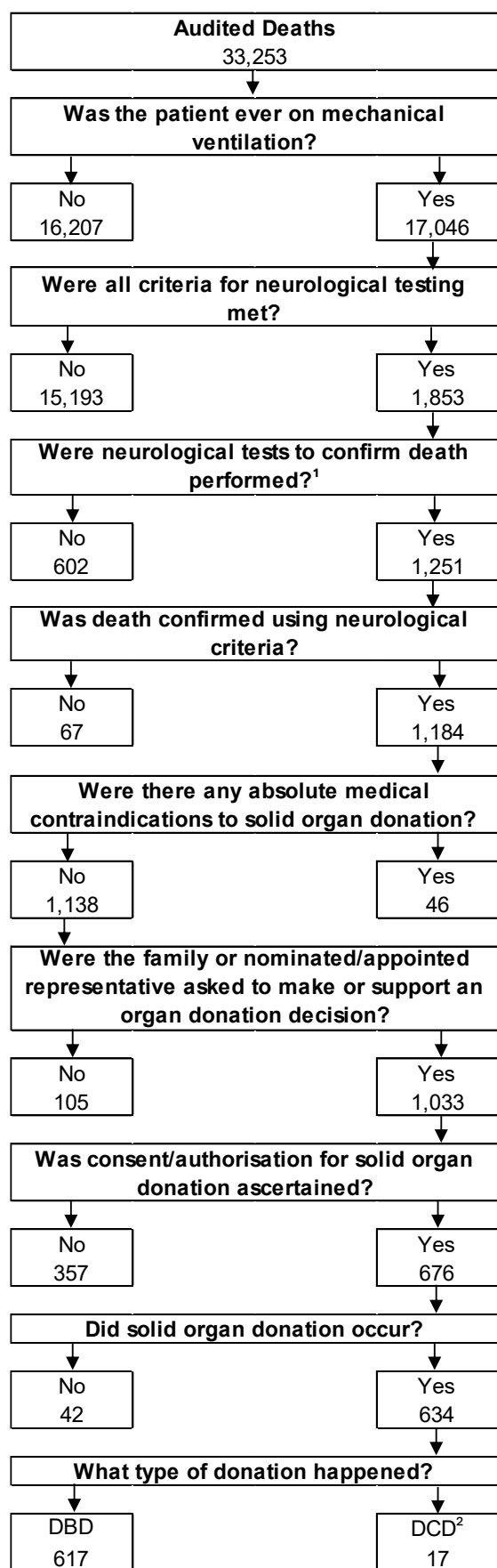
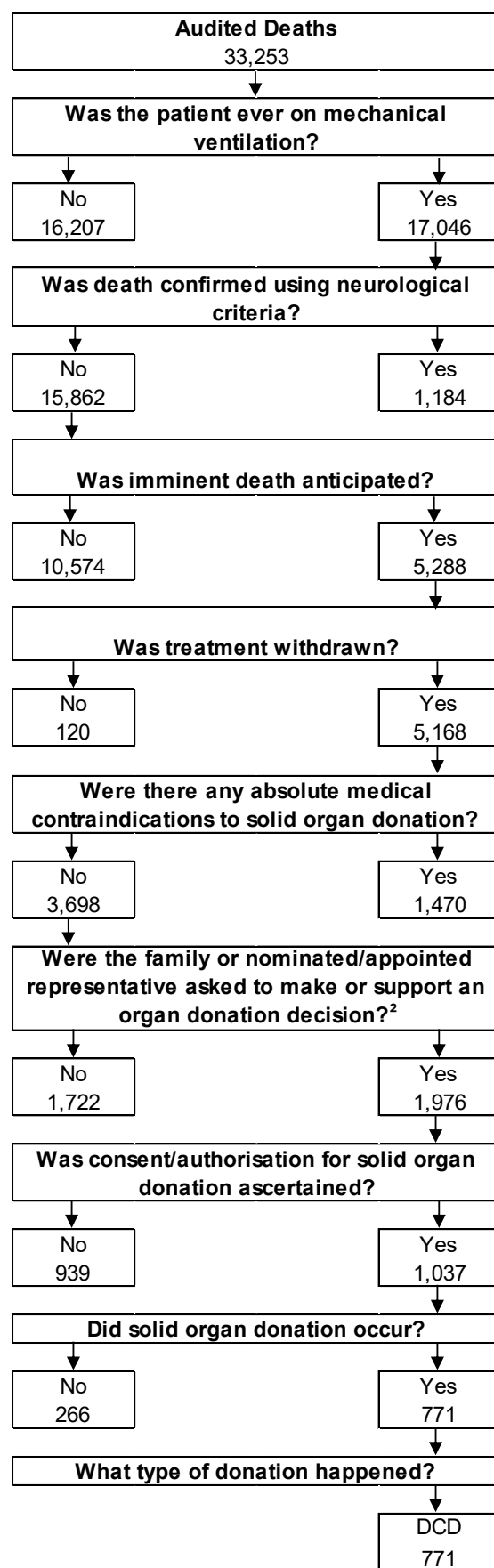


Figure 13.2 Donation after circulatory death



¹ Patients for whom tests were not performed due to; cardiac arrest despite resuscitation occurred or brainstem reflexes returned are excluded from the calculation of the neurological death testing rate

² A large number of DCD donors are not approached due to the DCD screening process which precludes them from solid organ donation

Table 13.1 Summary of key percentages, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

	DBD	DCD	ALL
Neurological death testing rate	67.5		
Referral rate	99.3	93.5	94.7
SNOD presence rate	97.0	90.3	92.6
Consent/authorisation rate	65.4	52.5	56.9
- SNOD present for donation decision conversation	67.0	57.4	60.9
- SNOD not present for donation decision conversation	16.1	6.3	7.7
- All expressed opt in*	93.4	83.2	86.9
- Expressed ODR opt in (subset of all expressed opt in)	93.1	82.8	86.5
- Deemed consent/authorisation**	53.0	40.7	44.9
- Other***	51.5	32.0	38.5

* 167 families overruled their loved one's expressed opt in decision to be an organ donor

** There were 1092 cases where deemed consent/authorisation applied and in 602 cases the family did not support deemed consent/authorisation

*** Includes patients where nation specific deemed criteria are not met and the patient has not expressed a donation decision in accordance with relevant legislation

Table 13.2 Summary of all deceased donor key percentages by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST), 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

ODST	Testing rate	Referral rate	SNOD presence rate	Consent/authorisation rate
Eastern	62.6	94.2	93.4	59.6
London	66.2	93.7	93.7	43.8
Midlands	76.6	92.5	91.1	49.7
North West	62.2	96.8	96.9	65.8
Northern	78.8	95.4	93.1	62.9
Northern Ireland	69.9	94.3	99.0	63.9
Scotland	50.0	96.8	86.1	61.5
South Central	60.4	96.3	90.9	55.0
South East	66.5	93.6	94.9	54.1
South Wales	76.3	97.0	82.9	56.6
South West	69.7	89.2	91.1	68.2
Yorkshire	81.7	97.7	95.4	57.6
TOTAL	67.5	94.7	92.6	56.9

13.4 Eligible donors

The number of eligible donors (as defined earlier) and rates per million population (pmp) are shown in **Table 13.3**, by NHS region. The number of actual donors pmp can be found in Table 3.2 of Chapter 3. Within England, eligible DBD ranged from 11.5 pmp in the South East to 28.1 pmp in London. Eligible DCD ranged from 45.5 pmp in the North West to 69.0 pmp in the East of England.

Across the countries, there was a range of 47.1 eligible donors pmp in Scotland to 79.2 eligible donors pmp in Wales. Overall, there were 1,138 eligible DBD (16.4 pmp) and 3,698 eligible DCD (53.2 pmp) in the UK, resulting in a total of 69.6 eligible donors per million population. **Tables 13.4** and **13.5** show more detailed information by country/NHS region for DBD and DCD data, respectively.

Table 13.3 Eligible donor rates per million population (pmp), in the UK, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by country and NHS region

Country/ NHS region of donation	Eligible DBD		Eligible DCD		TOTAL	
	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)
North East and Yorkshire	137	(16.2)	454	(53.7)	591	(69.9)
North West	96	(12.4)	352	(45.5)	448	(58.0)
Midlands	175	(15.5)	553	(49.1)	728	(64.6)
East of England	107	(16.3)	454	(69.0)	561	(85.3)
London	256	(28.1)	530	(58.1)	786	(86.2)
South East	111	(11.5)	565	(58.6)	676	(70.1)
South West	94	(15.9)	307	(51.9)	401	(67.7)
England	976	(16.6)	3215	(54.8)	4191	(71.4)
Isle of Man	2	(25.0)	3	(37.5)	5	(62.5)
Channel Islands	3	(17.6)	3	(17.6)	6	(35.3)
Wales	60	(18.6)	195	(60.6)	255	(79.2)
Scotland	53	(9.5)	211	(37.7)	264	(47.1)
Northern Ireland	44	(22.4)	71	(36.2)	115	(58.7)
TOTAL	1138	(16.4)	3698	(53.2)	4836	(69.6)

Table 13.4 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by country and NHS region							
Country/ NHS region of donation	Number of patients where neurological death was suspected	Neurological death testing rate (%)	DBD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donors	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD SNOD presence rate (%)	DBD consent/ authorisation rate (%)
North East and Yorkshire	191	80.1	99.5	137	126	98.4	70.6
North West	168	60.1	99.4	96	86	98.8	72.1
Midlands	244	78.7	100.0	175	155	98.7	64.5
East of England	186	61.3	97.3	107	102	93.1	72.5
London	430	65.6	99.3	256	226	97.3	46.0
South East	210	61.4	100.0	111	100	97.0	65.0
South West	146	69.2	99.3	94	90	92.2	78.9
England	1575	68.1	99.3	976	885	96.8	63.8
Isle of Man	3	66.7	100.0	2	2	100.0	50.0
Channel Islands	3	100.0	100.0	3	3	100.0	100.0
Wales	89	76.4	100.0	60	53	98.1	73.6
Scotland	110	50.0	99.1	53	47	97.9	80.9
Northern Ireland	73	69.9	98.6	44	43	97.7	69.8
TOTAL	1853	67.5	99.3	1138	1033	97.0	65.4

Table 13.5 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by country and NHS region

Country/ NHS region of donation	Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated	DCD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donors	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD SNOD presence rate (%)	DCD consent/ authorisation rate (%)
North East and Yorkshire	728	96.3	454	247	91.5	52.6
North West	624	96.0	352	145	95.9	62.1
Midlands	791	91.3	553	299	88.0	45.8
East of England	678	93.8	454	265	93.2	57.7
London	730	90.8	530	281	91.8	42.3
South East	757	94.3	565	270	90.4	53.7
South West	365	87.7	307	178	91.6	59.6
England	4673	93.2	3215	1685	91.4	52.2
Isle of Man	5	100.0	3	1	100.0	100.0
Channel Islands	7	85.7	3	2	100.0	100.0
Wales	245	97.1	195	94	77.7	47.9
Scotland	253	96.0	211	140	82.1	55.0
Northern Ireland	105	92.4	71	54	100.0	59.3
TOTAL	5288	93.5	3698	1976	90.3	52.5

Tables 13.6 and **13.7** show more detailed information on the key metrics by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) for DBD and DCD data, respectively. Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation (SNODs) work within an ODST, which covers an area of the UK. As seen in **Table 13.6**, the neurological death testing rate was highest for the Yorkshire team and the DBD referral rate was 100% for 5 teams. The SNOD presence rate was highest for the North West team, where a SNOD was present for 99% of DBD donation decision conversations.

Table 13.6 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)

ODST	Number of patients where neurological death was suspected	Neurological death testing rate (%)	DBD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donors	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD SNOD presence rate (%)	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)
Eastern	219	62.6	97.3	129	124	94.4	71.0
London	308	66.2	99.4	183	162	97.5	44.4
Midlands	209	76.6	100.0	144	126	98.4	61.1
North West	188	62.2	99.5	111	99	99.0	71.7
Northern	99	78.8	99.0	67	63	98.4	66.7
Northern Ireland	73	69.9	98.6	44	43	97.7	69.8
Scotland	110	50.0	99.1	53	47	97.9	80.9
South Central	144	60.4	100.0	73	65	98.5	66.2
South East	191	66.5	100.0	117	102	96.1	54.9
South Wales	76	76.3	100.0	51	46	97.8	76.1
South West	132	69.7	99.2	86	83	91.6	80.7
Yorkshire	104	81.7	100.0	80	73	98.6	78.1
TOTAL	1853	67.5	99.3	1138	1033	97.0	65.4

Table 13.7 indicates that for DCD patients, the highest referral rate was 97.3% for the Yorkshire team and the highest proportion of DCD donation decision conversations for which a SNOD was present was 100% for the Northern Ireland team. No account has been taken of the demographics of the populations within the teams which may impact on the rates presented.

Table 13.7 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)						
ODST	Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated	DCD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donors	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD SNOD presence rate (%)	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)
Eastern	791	93.4	543	314	93.0	55.1
London	470	91.1	333	185	90.3	43.2
Midlands	690	90.9	484	268	87.7	44.4
North West	705	96.3	416	158	95.6	62.0
Northern	257	94.2	175	96	89.6	60.4
Northern Ireland	105	92.4	71	54	100.0	59.3
Scotland	253	96.0	211	140	82.1	55.0
South Central	478	95.6	357	166	88.0	50.6
South East	531	91.9	393	194	94.3	53.6
South Wales	172	95.9	137	83	74.7	45.8
South West	313	86.3	268	153	90.8	61.4
Yorkshire	523	97.3	310	165	93.9	48.5
TOTAL	5288	93.5	3698	1976	90.3	52.5

Table 13.8 shows key metrics separately for patients meeting the PDA criteria who were referred in an ICU or an emergency department (irrespective of where the patient died), for DBD and DCD, respectively. Note that the total number of patients in this table and the associated rates do not match the other tables throughout this chapter as **Table 13.8** is based on the subset of patients who were referred to the ODST.

Table 13.9 shows key metrics separately for adult and paediatric patients, for DBD and DCD, respectively. Note that of the 72 paediatric patients for whom neurological death was suspected, tests were not performed on 37 patients.

Table 13.8 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by unit where patient referred from, for patients who met the PDA criteria and were referred

Eligible donor type	Unit where patient was referred from	Number of patients who were referred ¹	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donor donation decision conversations	SNOD presence rate (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors ²
DBD	Critical care	1806	68.1	1122	1017	97.1	65.4	624
	Emergency dept.	24	62.5	13	13	92.3	76.9	9
	Other	10	70.0	3	3	100.0	33.3	1
	TOTAL	1840	68.0	1138	1033	97.0	65.4	634
DCD	Critical care	4835		3391	1920	90.8	53.2	763
	Emergency dept.	79		64	39	82.1	35.9	7
	Other	30		17	10	90.0	20.0	1
	TOTAL	4944		3472	1969	90.7	52.7	771

¹ DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

² Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 17 DCD donors referred from critical care and 0 DCD donors referred from emergency departments

Table 13.9 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by age group

Eligible donor type	Age group	Number of patients who met referral criteria ¹	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donor donation decision conversations	SNOD presence rate (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors ²
DBD	Adult (>=18)	1781	68.3	99.4	1107	1006	97.0	66.0	623
	Paediatric (<18)	72	48.6	95.8	31	27	96.3	44.4	11
	TOTAL	1853	67.5	99.3	1138	1033	97.0	65.4	634
DCD	Adult (>=18)	5101		93.6	3537	1910	90.6	53.4	755
	Paediatric (<18)	187		91.4	161	66	81.8	25.8	16
	TOTAL	5288		93.5	3698	1976	90.3	52.5	771

¹ DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

² Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 0 DCD donors under 18 and 17 DCD donors aged 18 and over

13.5 Consent/ authorisation rates

The overall DBD consent/authorisation rate was 65% and the 95% confidence limits for this percentage are 63% - 68%. For DCD, the overall rate was 53% and the 95% confidence limits are 50% - 55%.

Across the country/NHS region, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 46% in London to 79% in the South West. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 42% in London to 62% in the North West (Tables 13.4 and 13.5).

The overall consent/authorisation rates (combining DBD and DCD) for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were 56%, 57%, 61% and 64% respectively.

Consent/authorisation rates by Organ Donation Services Team are illustrated in Figure 13.3 for both DBD and DCD. Caution should be applied when interpreting these consent/authorisation rates as no adjustment has been made for the mix of patients in terms of age, prior opt in decision and ethnicity.

Across the Organ Donation Services Teams, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 44% in the London team to 81% in the South West and Scotland teams. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 43% in the London team to 62% in the North West team.

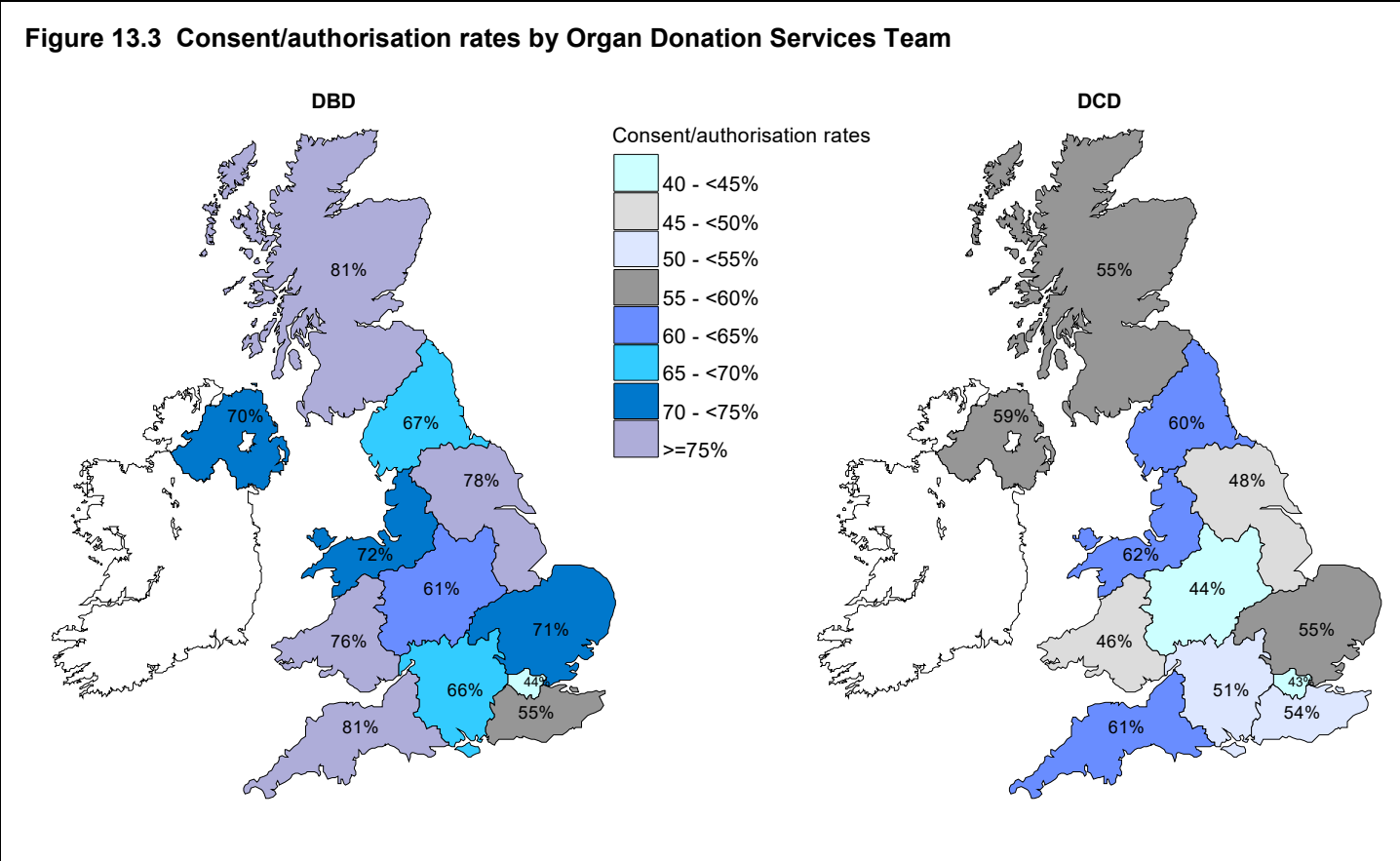


Table 13.10 shows the consent/authorisation rate separately for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups. The national DBD consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups were 73% and 34%, respectively. A similar difference was observed for DCD consent/authorisation rates: 56% and 24%, respectively. Note that there were an additional 35 donation decision conversations where the ethnicity was not known or not reported.

The Northern, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Wales, and South West teams each accounted for only 3% or less donation decision conversations where patients are from ethnic minority groups, whereas London accounted for 33%. Most teams had a very small proportion, therefore accounting for some of the variation observed in overall consent/authorisation rates between teams. Note that consent/authorisation rates have not been provided where the number of donation decision conversations is less than ten.

Table 13.10 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) and ethnicity

ODST	White eligible donors					Eligible donors from ethnic minority groups					All
	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%) ¹
Eastern	104	76.9	278	59.7	64.4	19	42.1	35	20.0	27.8	59.6
London	87	57.5	123	52.8	54.8	75	29.3	60	25.0	27.4	43.8
Midlands	106	68.9	236	48.7	55.0	20	20.0	30	13.3	16.0	49.7
North West	88	73.9	146	65.1	68.4	11	54.5	12	25.0	39.1	65.8
Northern	60	70.0	92	60.9	64.5	3	-	3	-	-	62.9
Northern Ireland	41	73.2	52	59.6	65.6	2	-	1	-	-	63.9
Scotland	41	80.5	127	56.7	62.5	1	-	4	-	-	61.5
South Central	51	78.4	146	53.4	59.9	14	21.4	17	35.3	29.0	55.0
South East	69	60.9	164	56.7	57.9	33	42.4	26	34.6	39.0	54.1
South Wales	44	75.0	80	46.3	56.5	2	-	3	-	-	56.6
South West	73	86.3	145	64.8	72.0	7	-	5	-	25.0	68.2
Yorkshire	62	83.9	153	51.0	60.5	11	45.5	12	16.7	30.4	57.6
TOTAL	826	73.0	1742	56.3	61.6	198	34.3	208	24.0	29.1	56.9

¹ Includes 35 donation decision conversations where the ethnicity was not known or not reported

Table 13.11 shows the reasons why the family did not give consent/authorisation, by donor type. The most common reason reported for why the families of both eligible DBD and DCD families did not give consent/authorisation was that the patient had previously expressed a decision not to donate. Overall, this reason was reported in 19% of cases. In DCD donation, families also commonly cited the long length of the donation process as the reason for not supporting organ donation, accounting for a further 20% of DCD cases.

Table 13.11 Reasons why the family did not support organ donation, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by donor type						
Primary reason why family did not support organ donation	Donor type				Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Patient had previously expressed a wish not to donate	73	20.4	172	18.3	245	18.9
Family felt the length of time for the donation process was too long	25	7.0	189	20.1	214	16.5
Family were not sure whether the patient would have agreed to donation	50	14.0	120	12.8	170	13.1
Family did not want surgery to the body	36	10.1	85	9.1	121	9.3
Family felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs	49	13.7	44	4.7	93	7.2
Family felt patient had suffered enough	16	4.5	70	7.5	86	6.6
Patient had registered a decision to Opt Out	16	4.5	56	6.0	72	5.6
Strong refusal - probing not appropriate	19	5.3	31	3.3	50	3.9
Family felt that the body should be buried whole (unrelated to religious/cultural reasons)	17	4.8	24	2.6	41	3.2
Family divided over the decision	10	2.8	23	2.4	33	2.5
Family did not believe in donation	8	2.2	19	2.0	27	2.1
Family wanted to stay with the patient after death	2	0.6	13	1.4	15	1.2
Family concerned that organs may not be transplantable	5	1.4	6	0.6	11	0.8
Family concerned other people may disapprove/be offended	1	0.3	5	0.5	6	0.5
Family believe patient's treatment may have been limited to facilitate organ donation	0	0.0	2	0.2	2	0.2
Family concerned about organ allocation	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
Family concerned donation may delay the funeral	1	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.1
Other	29	8.1	79	8.4	108	8.3
TOTAL	357	100	939	100	1296	100

13.6 Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SNOD) presence

Table 13.12 shows the proportion of donation decision conversations where a SNOD was present, for DBD and DCD separately, and overall. Nationally, 97% of DBD and 90% of DCD donation decision conversation had a SNOD present. There is some variation between teams in the percentage of DCD donation decision conversations where a SNOD was present, however SNOD presence rates are good across all teams for DBD donation decision conversations.

ODST	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations where SNOD present	DBD SNOD presence rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations where SNOD present	DCD SNOD presence rate (%)	Overall SNOD presence rate (%)
Eastern	124	117	94.4	314	292	93.0	93.4
London	162	158	97.5	185	167	90.3	93.7
Midlands	126	124	98.4	268	235	87.7	91.1
North West	99	98	99.0	158	151	95.6	96.9
Northern	63	62	98.4	96	86	89.6	93.1
Northern Ireland	43	42	97.7	54	54	100.0	99.0
Scotland	47	46	97.9	140	115	82.1	86.1
South Central	65	64	98.5	166	146	88.0	90.9
South East	102	98	96.1	194	183	94.3	94.9
South Wales	46	45	97.8	83	62	74.7	82.9
South West	83	76	91.6	153	139	90.8	91.1
Yorkshire	73	72	98.6	165	155	93.9	95.4
TOTAL	1033	1002	97.0	1976	1785	90.3	92.6

Table 13.13 shows the effect on the consent/authorisation rate when a SNOD is present or not present for the donation decision conversation. Evidence shows that the family is more likely to support organ donation when a trained SNOD is present for the donation decision conversation, and this is particularly apparent for eligible DCD donors. Again, there is wide variation between teams.

Caution should be applied when interpreting these rates as numbers of donation decision conversations are very small where a SNOD is not present and no account has been taken of donation decisions which were initiated by the family, a patient's prior opt in decision or ethnicity.

Table 13.13 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates with/without a SNOD present from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)

ODST	SNOD present for donation decision conversation					SNOD not present for donation decision conversation					All
	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donation decision conversations	DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donation decision conversations	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)
Eastern	117	73.5	292	57.5	62.1	7	28.6	22	22.7	24.1	59.6
London	158	45.6	167	47.9	46.8	4	0.0	18	0.0	0.0	43.8
Midlands	124	62.1	235	49.8	54.0	2	0.0	33	6.1	5.7	49.7
North West	98	72.4	151	64.9	67.9	1	0.0	7	0.0	0.0	65.8
Northern	62	67.7	86	67.4	67.6	1	0.0	10	0.0	0.0	62.9
Northern Ireland	42	71.4	54	59.3	64.6	1	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	63.9
Scotland	46	82.6	115	63.5	68.9	1	0.0	25	16.0	15.4	61.5
South Central	64	67.2	146	57.5	60.5	1	0.0	20	0.0	0.0	55.0
South East	98	56.1	183	56.3	56.2	4	25.0	11	9.1	13.3	54.1
South Wales	45	77.8	62	61.3	68.2	1	0.0	21	0.0	0.0	56.6
South West	76	85.5	139	67.6	74.0	7	28.6	14	0.0	9.5	68.2
Yorkshire	72	79.2	155	51.6	60.4	1	0.0	10	0.0	0.0	57.6
TOTAL	1002	67.0	1785	57.4	60.9	31	16.1	191	6.3	7.7	56.9

13.7 Comparison with previous years

Table 13.14 and Figure 13.4 show the key metrics from the PDA for the last four financial years.

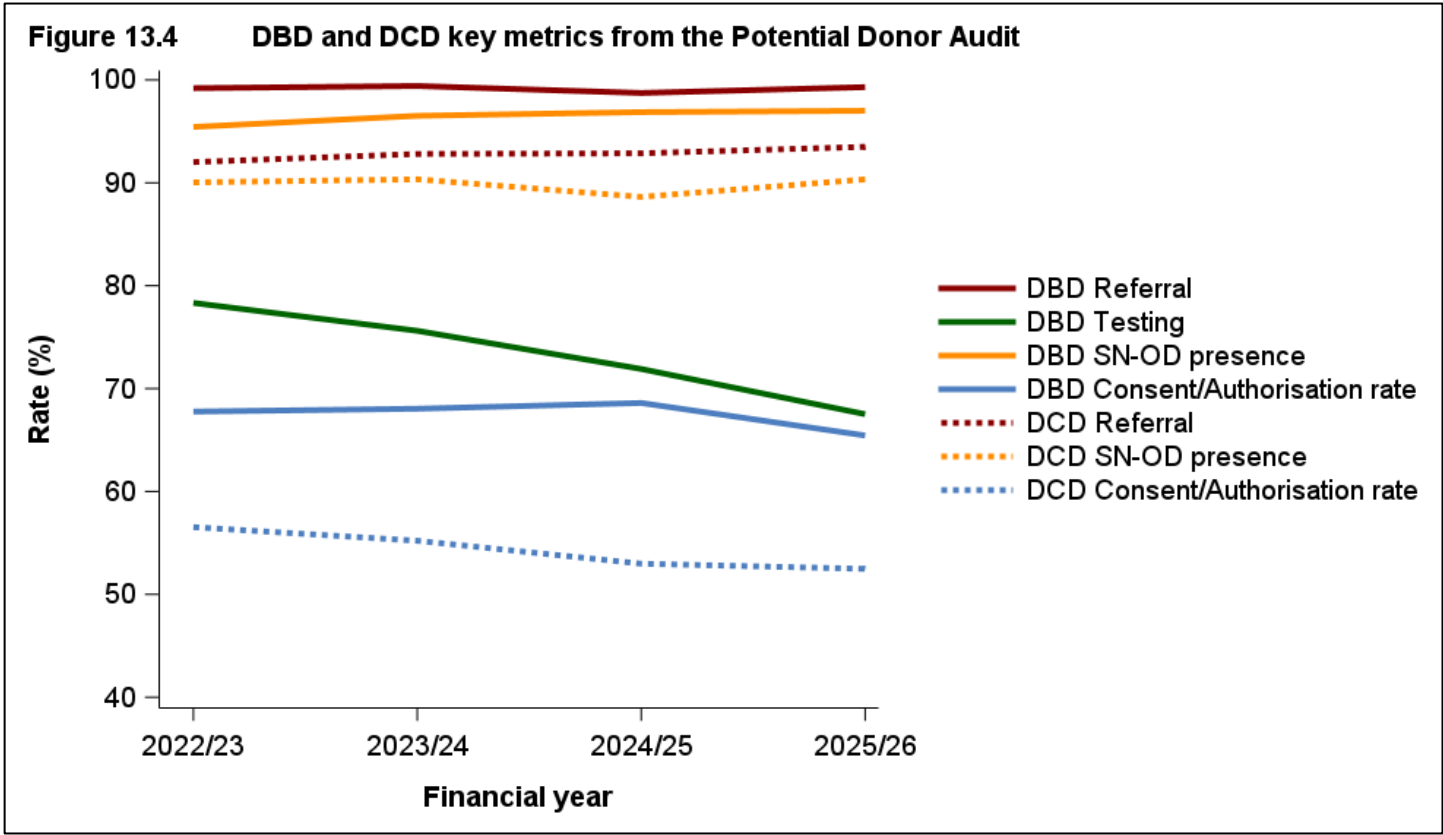
Table 13.14 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, by financial year										
Eligible donor type	Financial year	Number of patients who met referral criteria ¹	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors	Number of eligible donor decision conversations	SNOD presence rate (%)	Number of families who consented to/ authorised donation	Consent/ authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors ²
DBD ³	2022-2023	1993	78.3	99.2	1442	1247	95.4	845	67.8	782
	2023-2024	2034	75.6	99.4	1428	1261	96.5	858	68.0	788
	2024-2025	1890	71.9	98.7	1250	1086	96.9	745	68.6	696
	2025-2026	1853	67.5	99.3	1138	1033	97.0	676	65.4	634
DCD ³	2022-2023	5346		92.0	3493	1707	90.0	965	56.5	638
	2023-2024	5349		92.8	3648	1853	90.3	1023	55.2	710
	2024-2025	5524		92.9	3749	1829	88.6	969	53.0	703
	2025-2026	5288		93.5	3698	1976	90.3	1037	52.5	771
TOTAL ³	2022-2023	6956		93.7	4935	2954	92.3	1810	61.3	1420
	2023-2024	6930		94.3	5076	3114	92.8	1881	60.4	1498
	2024-2025	6904		94.2	4999	2915	91.7	1714	58.8	1399
	2025-2026	6552		94.7	4836	3009	92.6	1713	56.9	1405

¹ DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected (excluding those for which cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation or brain stem reflexes returned); DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

² Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 21 DCD donors in 2022-2023, 29 DCD donors in 2023-2024, 21 DCD donors in 2024-2025 and 17 DCD donors in 2025-2026

³ Note that patients who met the referral criteria for both DBD and DCD donation will appear in both DBD and DCD totals but only once in the deceased donor total

DBD referral rates have remained unchanged, with DCD referral rates having risen since 2022/23. The DBD testing rate has been slowly decreasing whilst the SNOD presence rate has been increasing in both DBD and DCD. The consent/authorisation rate for DBD has remained unchanged in recent years, whilst for DCD it has continued to decrease.



13.8 Consented/authorised cases not proceeding to solid organ donation

Consent/authorisation for donation was ascertained for 676 eligible DBD donors and 1,037 eligible DCD donors; 634 (94%) and 771 (74%) of these cases proceeded to donate at least one solid organ, respectively. **Table 13.15** shows the reasons why donation did not proceed for the 42 eligible DBD and 266 eligible DCD cases where consent/authorisation was ascertained. The main reasons reported for consented/authorised eligible DBD donors not proceeding to donate was that the organs were deemed to be medically unsuitable on surgical inspection or by transplant centres. The main reason for consented/authorised DCD donors was prolonged time to asystole, meaning that the donor did not die in a timeframe suitable for organ donation.



Table 13.15 Reasons why consented/authorised eligible donors did not proceed to donate, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by donor type

Primary reason why donation did not proceed	Donor type					
	DBD		DCD		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Clinical - PTA post WLST	0	-	138	51.9	138	44.8
Clinical - Organs deemed medically unsuitable by recipient centres	9	21.4	45	16.9	54	17.5
Consent / Auth - NOK withdraw consent / authorisation	5	11.9	17	6.4	22	7.1
Clinical - Patient actively dying	5	11.9	14	5.3	19	6.2
Clinical - Considered high risk donor	3	7.1	13	4.9	16	5.2
Consent / Auth - Coroner/Procurator fiscal refusal	6	14.3	10	3.8	16	5.2
Clinical - No transplantable organ	4	9.5	7	2.6	11	3.6
Clinical - Organs deemed medically unsuitable on surgical inspection	4	9.5	6	2.3	10	3.2
Clinical - Other	3	7.1	5	1.9	8	2.6
Clinical - Predicted PTA therefore not attended	0	-	4	1.5	4	1.3
Clinical - Absolute contraindication to organ donation	2	4.8	1	0.4	3	1.0
Clinical - Patient's general medical condition	0	-	2	0.8	2	0.6
Clinical - DCD clinical exclusion	0	-	2	0.8	2	0.6
Logistical - Other	1	2.4	1	0.4	2	0.6
Consent / Auth - Other	0	-	1	0.4	1	0.3
TOTAL	42	100	266	100	308	100