

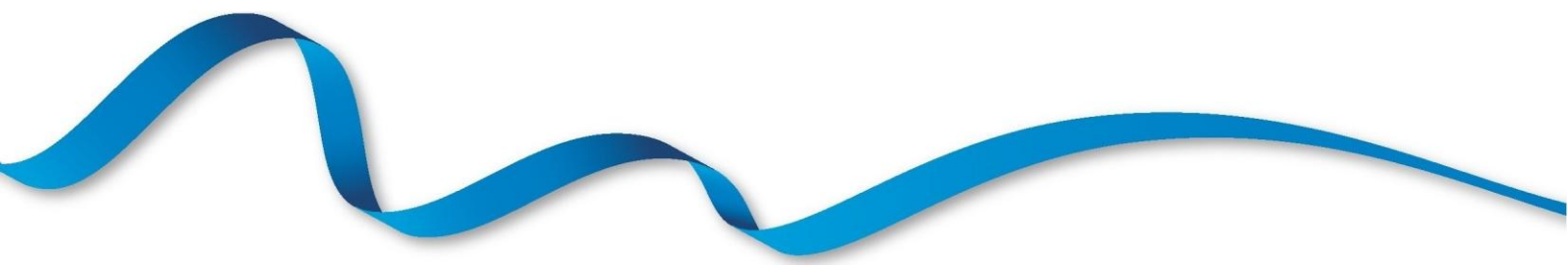


Blood and Transplant

**ANNUAL REPORT ON
THE NATIONAL ORGAN RETRIEVAL SERVICE
(NORS)**

**REPORT FOR 2025/26
(1 APRIL 2025 - 31 MARCH 2026)**

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2026



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Executive Summary

The National Organ Retrieval Service (NORS) was introduced on 1 April 2010, comprised of 16 NORS teams; 10 abdominal and 6 cardiothoracic surgical teams available to retrieve organs for transplantation from deceased donors in the UK. This report presents organ retrieval data from the most recent financial year, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Data were extracted from the UK Transplant Registry on 6 July 2026.

Key findings:

- From 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,634 potential organ donors were attended by a retrieval team. 1,418 (87%) of these proceeded to abdominal organ donation and 361 (62% of the 578 attended by a cardiothoracic team) proceeded to cardiothoracic organ donation.
- There was a 2% increase in the number of donors attended in this financial year compared to the previous year (from 1,599 to 1,634).
- On average, 4.5 potential donors were attended by a retrieval team per day, which is an increase from the previous year (4.4).
- On average, abdominal teams attended at least one donor on 48% of on-call days in the year (49% the previous year), while cardiothoracic teams attended at least one donor on 43% of on-call days (41% the previous year).
- There were statistically significant differences in the mean number of DBD abdominal organs transplanted across abdominal NORS teams.
- The transplantation rates for retrieved organs were variable across organs, from 44% for DCD pancreases, up to 99% for DBD hearts. Additionally, 91 DCD hearts were retrieved, 86 of which were transplanted.
- There were 274 A-NRP attendances, with 224 proceeding to organ donation.

Use of the contents of this report should be acknowledged as follows: *Annual Report on The National Organ Retrieval Service 2025/26, NHS Blood and Transplant*

INTRODUCTION



Introduction

The National Organ Retrieval Service (NORS) was introduced on 1 April 2010, comprised of 16 NORS teams; 10 abdominal and 6 cardiothoracic surgical teams available to retrieve organs for transplantation from deceased donors in the UK.

This report presents organ retrieval activity from the latest full financial year, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Data were provided by retrieval teams and Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation (SN-ODs) via the Retrieval Team Information (RTI) and Organ Retrieval Information (ORI) forms. A small proportion (0% and 0.2% for RTI and ORI, respectively) of forms were missing at time of data extraction, 6 July 2026.

The abdominal service is made up of four full-time teams (52 weeks on-call per annum) and six part-time teams (varying between 15 and 37 weeks on-call per annum), making eight abdominal teams on-call at any time. Since April 2016, following the NORS review, all six teams in the cardiothoracic service are part-time (26 weeks on-call per annum) making three teams on-call at any time. Prior to the NORS review, all six cardiothoracic teams were on-call full-time.

Some potential donors are attended by both an abdominal retrieval team and a cardiothoracic retrieval team, but many are only attended by an abdominal retrieval team. Statistics in this report are often presented separately for abdominal and cardiothoracic organ retrieval teams and also for donors after brain death (DBD) and donors after circulatory death (DCD).

Some potential donors are attended by a retrieval team but do not proceed to donation, i.e. no organs are retrieved. Non-proceeding donors are more common in the pool of potential DCD donors as prolonged time to circulatory arrest and death after treatment withdrawal can cause unsuitability of organs for transplantation. Note that a donor may be a non-proceeding cardiothoracic donor but proceed to abdominal organ donation, or vice-versa. Some of the information presented in this report is not relevant for non-proceeding donors and related only to actual donors. We cannot be sure that we have full reporting on all non-proceeding donors attended by retrieval teams as it is only possible to identify these through receipt of an RTI or ORI form.

Since February 2019 NORS teams have been mobilised using a sequence, the first and second teams in the sequence are defined for each UK hospital (largely based on travel times but adjusted to give a more even workload across NORS teams), while subsequent teams in the sequence are ordered based on travel time and availability, known as 'closest available'. If a team is first in sequence for a particular donor hospital, they are required to attend possible donors at that hospital within an agreed timescale if at least one organ has been accepted for transplantation. If the team is already retrieving when they are called to attend, then a second team is called in to retrieve and so on.

ACTIVITY



Donor Attendances

The number of DBD and DCD donors that were attended by each retrieval team between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 is shown in **Table 1a**. The number of donors attended varies due to the geographical distribution of donors and the on-call arrangements, where on-call arrangements for part-time NORS teams are always in a block of seven consecutive days (Monday to Monday).

Table 1a Number of donor attendances (proceeding and non-proceeding) per retrieval team, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by donor type (DBD/DCD)							
Attending retrieval team (weeks on-call per annum)	DBD		DCD		Total	% of all donors attended	(% attended in 2024/25)
	N	%	N	%			
Abdominal							
Birmingham (38w)	79	43.6	102	56.4	181	11.2	(11.0)
Cambridge (52w)	86	36.8	148	63.2	234	14.4	(13.7)
Cardiff (15w)	25	38.5	40	61.5	65	4.0	(4.4)
Edinburgh (52w)	42	28.8	104	71.2	146	9.0	(7.9)
King's College (52w)	97	41.6	136	58.4	233	14.4	(15.8)
Leeds (38w)	65	42.2	89	57.8	154	9.5	(9.6)
Manchester (38w)	66	45.8	78	54.2	144	8.9	(9.5)
Newcastle (52w)	52	40.6	76	59.4	128	7.9	(8.1)
Oxford (38w)	67	40.9	97	59.1	164	10.1	(10.0)
Royal Free (38w)	60	34.5	114	65.5	174	10.7	(10.0)
Abdominal total	639	39.4	984	60.6	1623	-	(-)
Cardiothoracic							
Birmingham (26w)	81	75.0	27	25.0	108	18.7	(17.5)
Glasgow (26w)	34	45.9	40	54.1	74	12.8	(10.5)
Harefield (26w)	52	44.1	66	55.9	118	20.4	(21.8)
Manchester (26w)	74	76.3	23	23.7	97	16.8	(17.9)
Newcastle (26w)	48	71.6	19	28.4	67	11.6	(9.8)
Papworth (26w)	33	28.9	81	71.1	114	19.7	(22.5)
Cardiothoracic total	322	55.7	256	44.3	578	-	(-)
Total no. attendances	961	43.7	1240	56.3	2201	100	(100)
Total no. donors attended	643	39.4	991	60.6	1634	100	(100)
There was one abdominal retrieval reported as attended by more than one retrieval team. This donor has been allocated to the team which was highest in the attendance sequence. Included in this table is one potential donor attended by an off-duty abdominal NORS team (Oxford) and 19 attended by an off-duty cardiothoracic NORS team (9 from Papworth, 5 from Glasgow, 2 from Newcastle, 2 from Manchester and 1 from Birmingham).							

These figures are broken down by whether the donor proceeded to organ donation (actual donors) or not in **Table 1b**. In total in the last financial year there were 1,634 donors attended by a retrieval team. Of these 643 (39%) were potential DBD donors and 991 (61%) were potential DCD donors. 632 of the potential DBD donors attended by an abdominal retrieval team (99%) proceeded to abdominal organ donation, while 210 (65%) of the potential DBD donors attended by a cardiothoracic team proceeded to cardiothoracic donation. For potential DCD donors, 786 (80%) of those attended by an abdominal team proceeded to abdominal donation, while 151 (59%) of those attended by a cardiothoracic team proceeded to cardiothoracic organ donation.

Table 1b Number of donor attendances per retrieval team, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 by donor type (DBD/DCD) and proceeding/non-proceeding						
Attending retrieval team (Weeks on-call per annum)	DBD			DCD		
	Actual	Non- proceeding	% non-proc	Actual	Non- proceeding	% non-proc
Abdominal						
Birmingham (38w)	79	0	0.0	84	18	17.6
Cambridge (52w)	86	0	0.0	115	33	22.3
Cardiff (15w)	25	0	0.0	33	7	17.5
Edinburgh (52w)	40	2	4.8	87	17	16.3
King's College (52w)	97	0	0.0	116	20	14.7
Leeds (38w)	64	1	1.5	70	19	21.3
Manchester (38w)	66	0	0.0	65	13	16.7
Newcastle (52w)	52	0	0.0	59	17	22.4
Oxford (38w)	64	3	4.5	67	30	30.9
Royal Free (38w)	59	1	1.7	90	24	21.1
Abdominal total	632	7	1.1	786	198	20.1
Cardiothoracic						
Birmingham (26w)	57	24	29.6	10	17	63.0
Glasgow (26w)	20	14	41.2	30	10	25.0
Harefield (26w)	24	28	53.8	39	27	40.9
Manchester (26w)	56	18	24.3	8	15	65.2
Newcastle (26w)	33	15	31.3	8	11	57.9
Papworth (26w)	20	13	39.4	56	25	30.9
Cardiothoracic total	210	112	34.8	151	105	41.0
Total donors (abdominal and/or cardiothoracic)	636	7	1.1	792	199	20.1
There was one abdominal retrieval reported as attended by more than one retrieval team. This donor has been allocated to the team which was highest in the attendance sequence. Included in this table is one potential donor attended by an off-duty abdominal NORS team (Oxford) and 19 attended by an off-duty cardiothoracic NORS team (9 from Papworth, 5 from Glasgow, 2 from Newcastle, 2 from Manchester and 1 from Birmingham).						

Figure 1a shows the proportion of donors attended by any abdominal retrieval team. In the last financial year, Cambridge and King's College attended the highest proportion of abdominal donors (14%) and Cardiff attended the lowest proportion (4%), as teams on call for less than 52 weeks a year will naturally attend fewer donors. **Figure 3b** reflects donors per day when on call, which gives a more balanced metric.

Figure 1a Proportion of donors attended by an abdominal team between 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

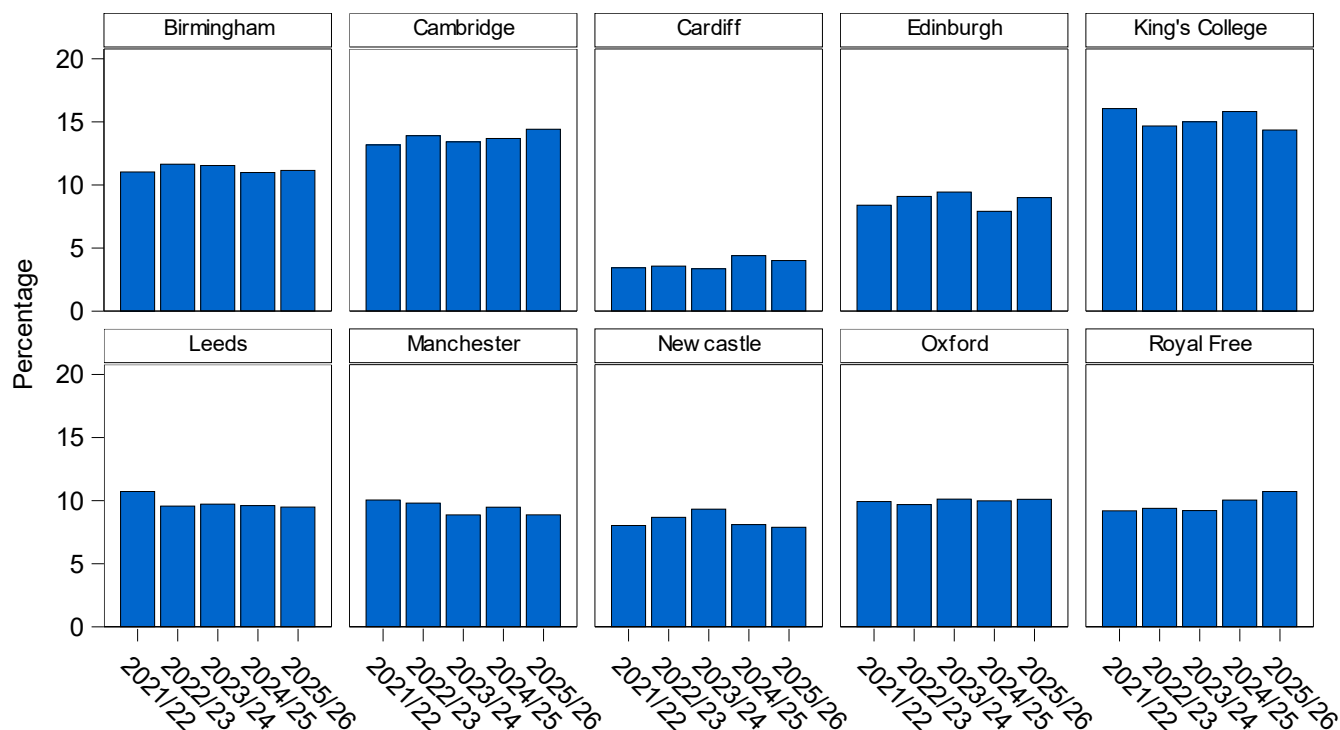


Figure 1b shows the proportion of donors attended by any cardiothoracic retrieval team. In the last financial year, Harefield attended the highest proportion of cardiothoracic donors (20%) and Newcastle attended the lowest proportion (12%).

Figure 1b Proportion of donors attended by a cardiothoracic team between 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

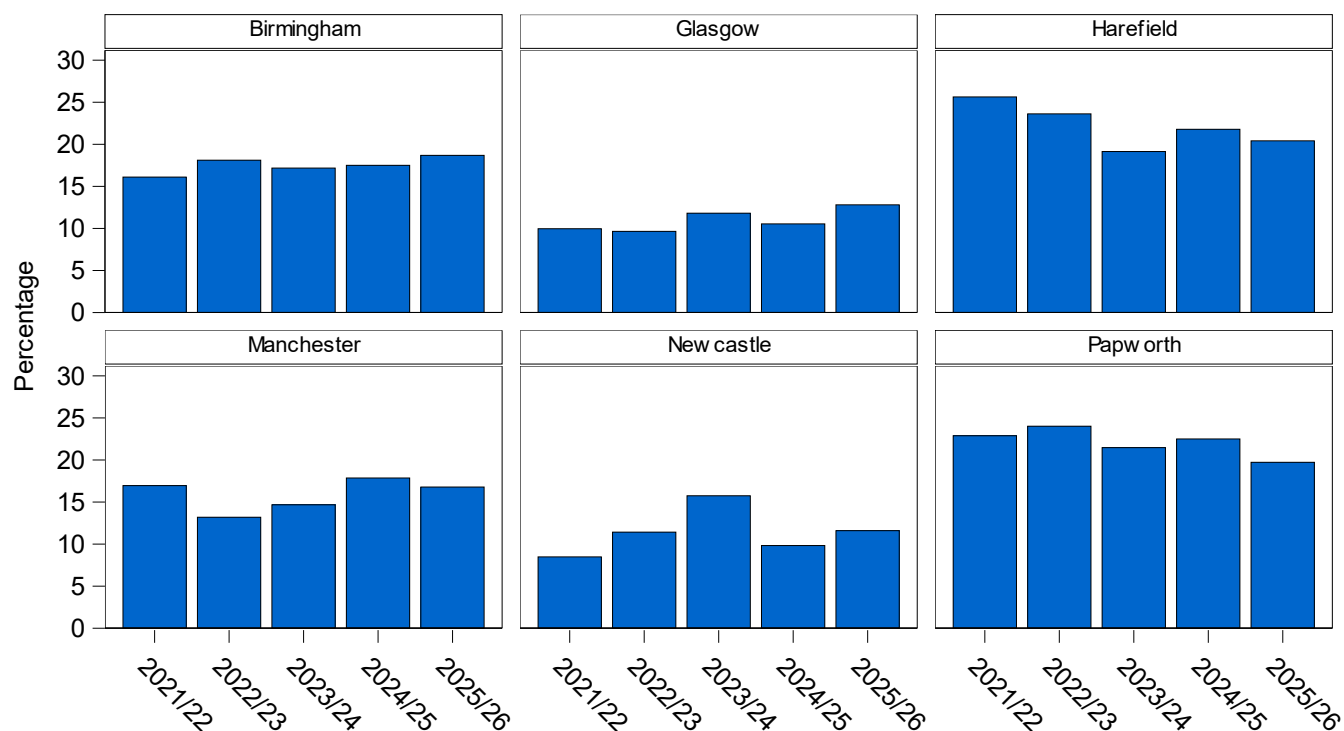


Figure 2 shows the distribution of the number of actual and non-proceeding donors attended by at least one retrieval team, per day in 2025/26. The number of donors per day ranged from 0 (4 days) to 11 (1 day). The mean number of donors per day was 4.5.

Figure 2 **Distribution of the number of actual and non-proceeding donors attended by at least one retrieval team on any one day during 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026**

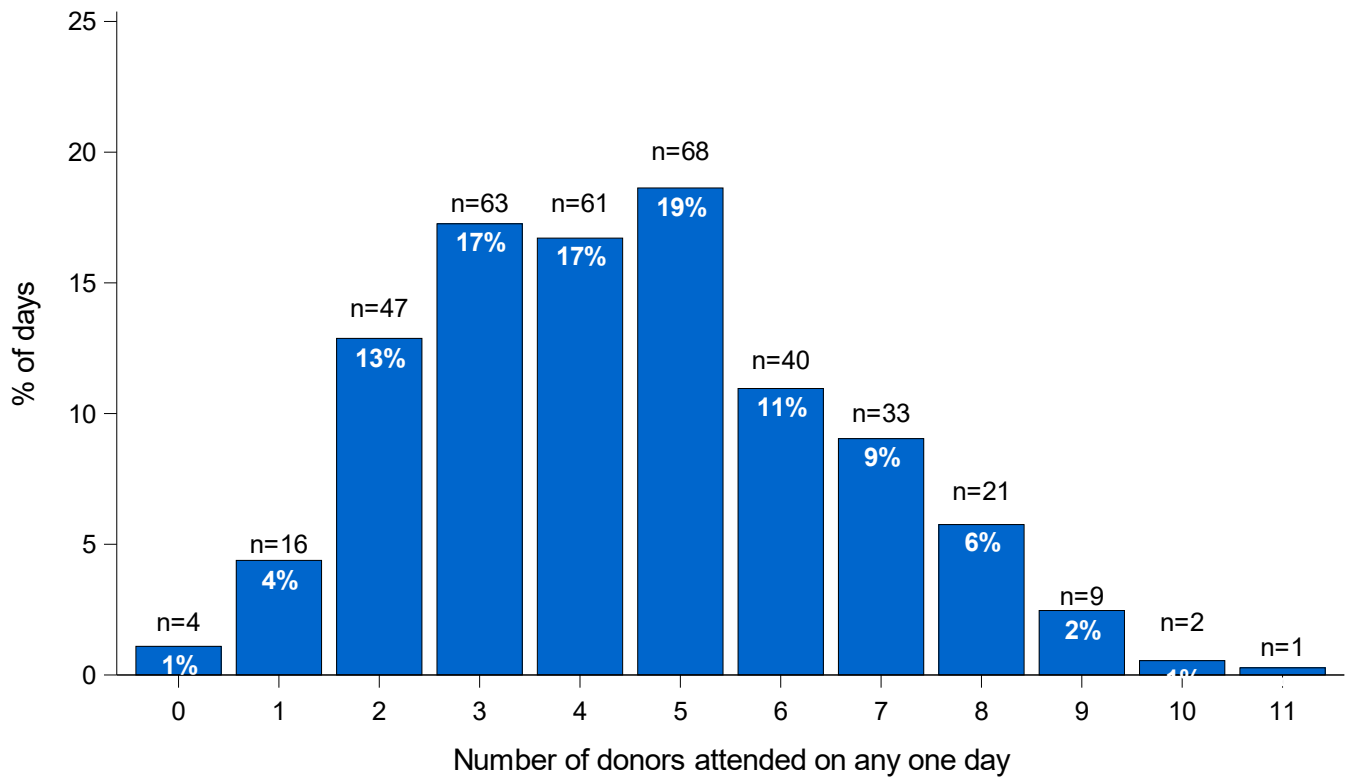


Figure 3a shows the distribution of the number of abdominal teams out on any one day during 2025/26. For example, there were 54 days in the 12-month period (15% of days) where two abdominal teams were out attending donors.

Figure 3a **Distribution of the number of abdominal retrieval teams out on any one day, between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026**

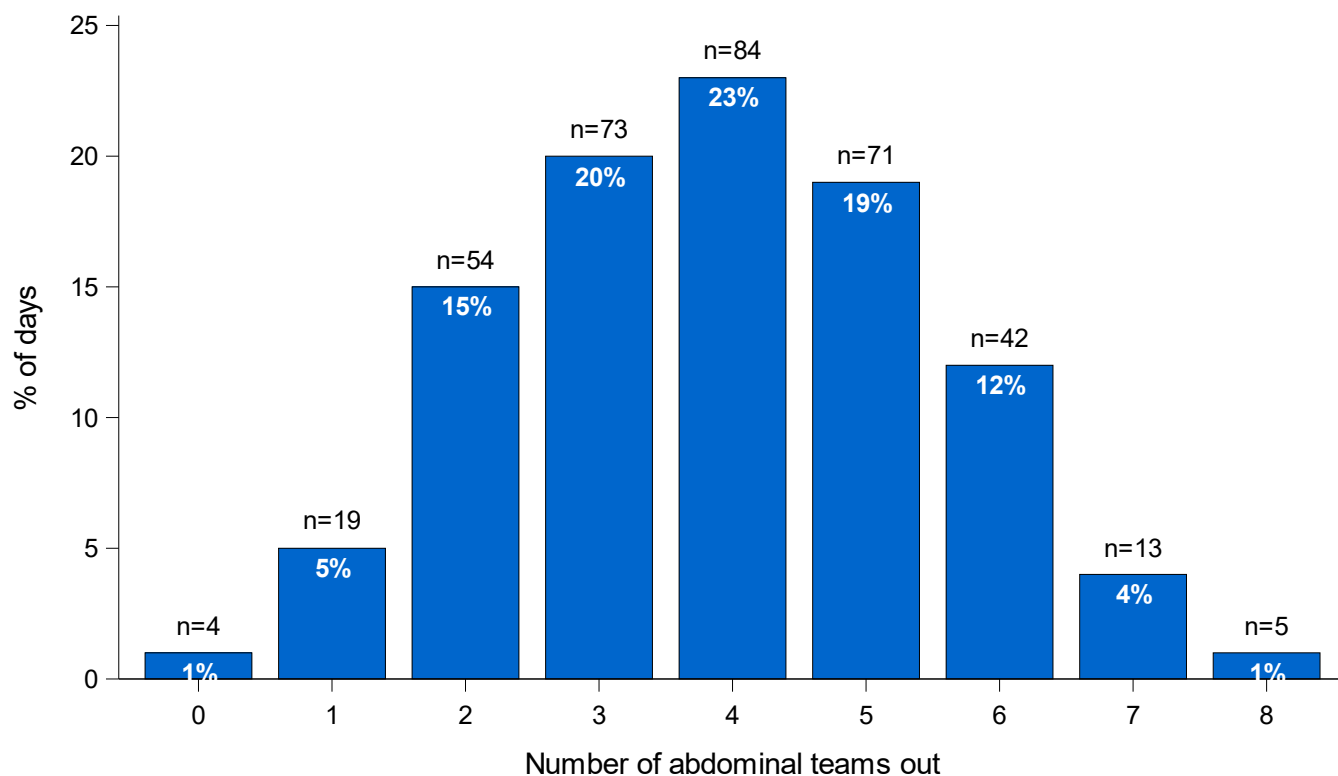


Figure 3b shows the distribution of donors attended by each abdominal team on any one day (that they were on call) during the year. On average abdominal teams did not attend any donors on 52% of the days in the year, attended one donor on 41% of days, attended two donors on 7% of days and attended three donors on 1% of days. The 'busiest' team in 2025/26 in terms of days active was Birmingham (when on call).

Figure 3b **Distribution of donors attended by each abdominal team on any one day,
1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026**

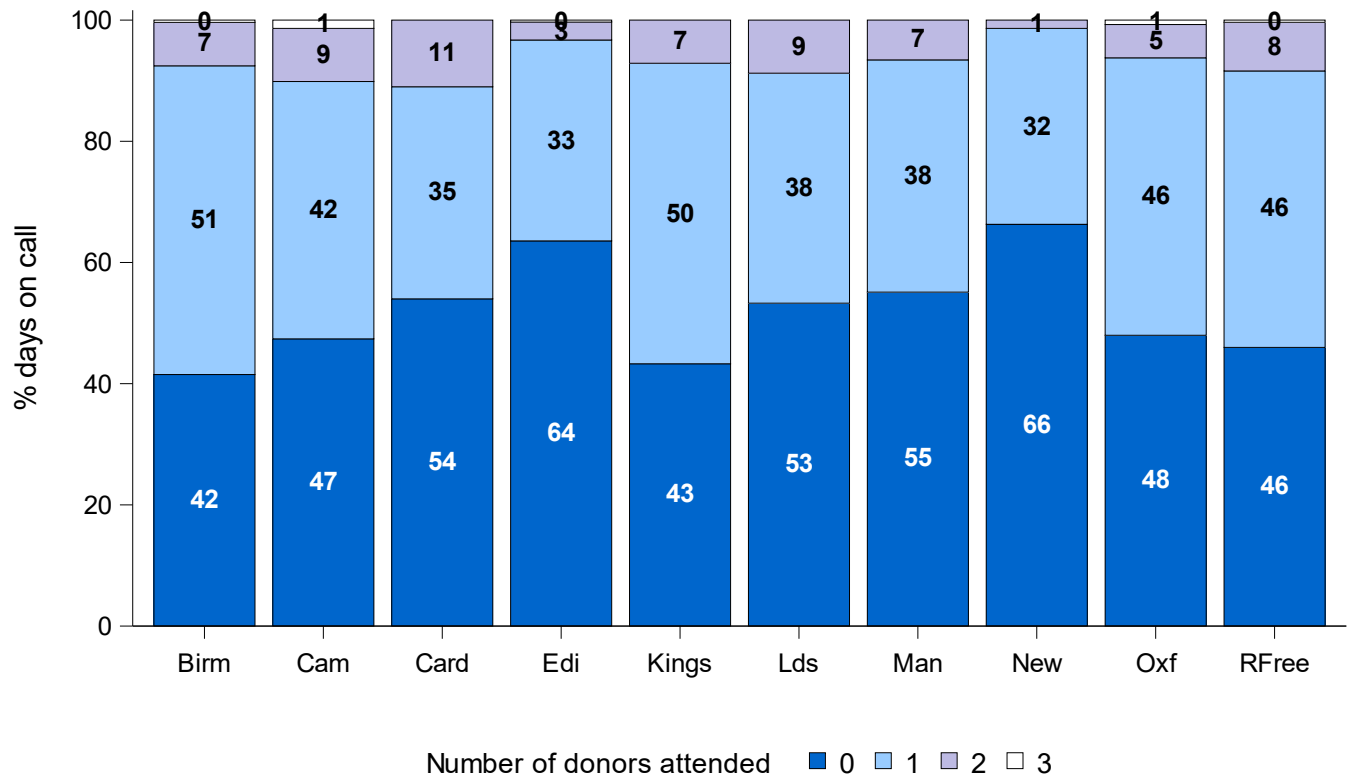


Figure 4a shows the distribution of the number of cardiothoracic teams out on any one day during 2025/26. It was most common for two cardiothoracic team to be out on any given day.

Figure 4a **Distribution of the number of cardiothoracic retrieval teams out on any one day, between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026**

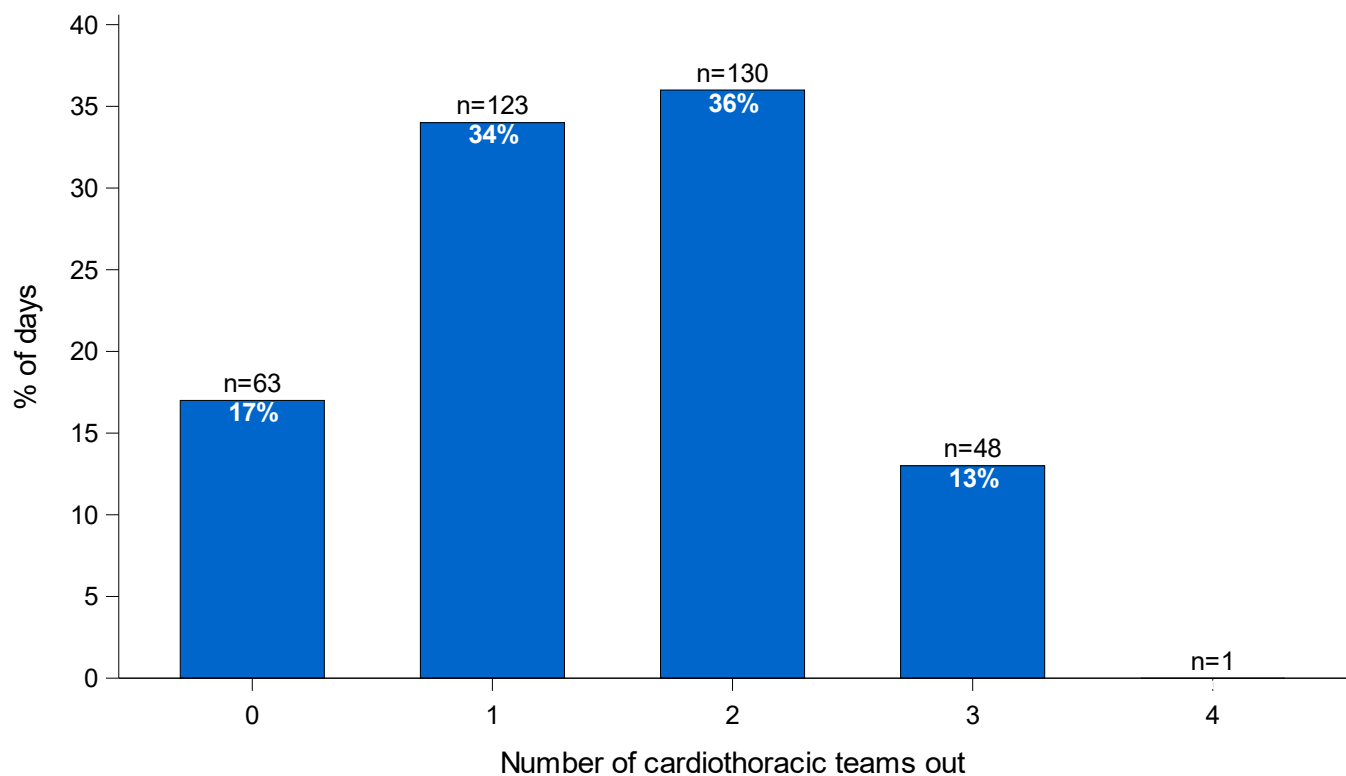
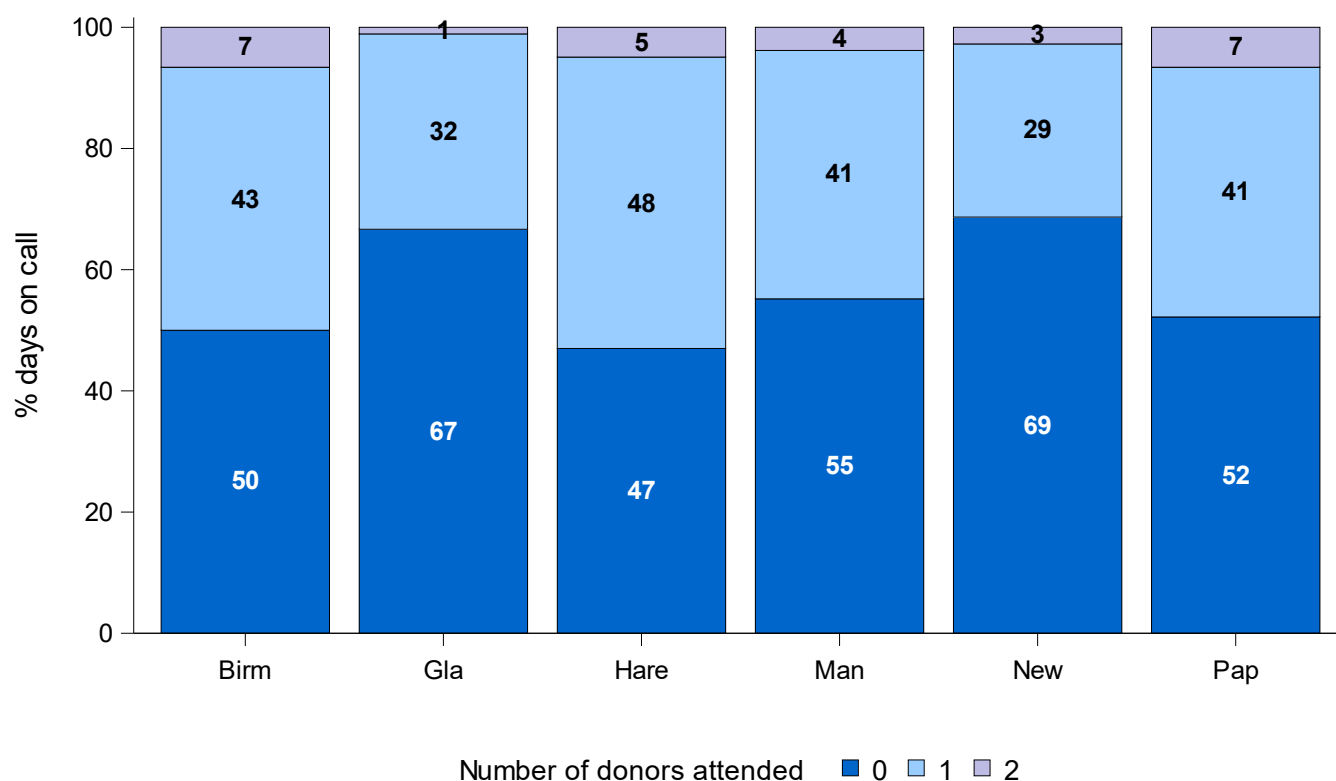


Figure 4b shows the distribution of donors attended by each cardiothoracic team on any one day (that they were on call) during the year. On average cardiothoracic teams did not attend any donors on 57% of the days in the year, attended one donor on 39% of days, attended two donors on 4% of days. The 'busiest' team in 2025/26 in terms of days active was Harefield (when on call).

Figure 4b Distribution of donors attended by each cardiothoracic team on any one day, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026



The time taken for teams to attend a donor is shown by team for the most recent three financial years in **Figures 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d**. The time shown is the time from the beginning of muster time (90 minutes prior to departure from base) to return to base, which is calculated using departure and arrival times reported on RTI forms. The median is the horizontal line in the box, and the box shows the interquartile range. Cases where retrieval took more than 48 hours have been removed along with cases where not all date/time points required were reported.

Figure 5a **Median (IQR) time an abdominal team is out attending a donor from departure to return to base, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026**

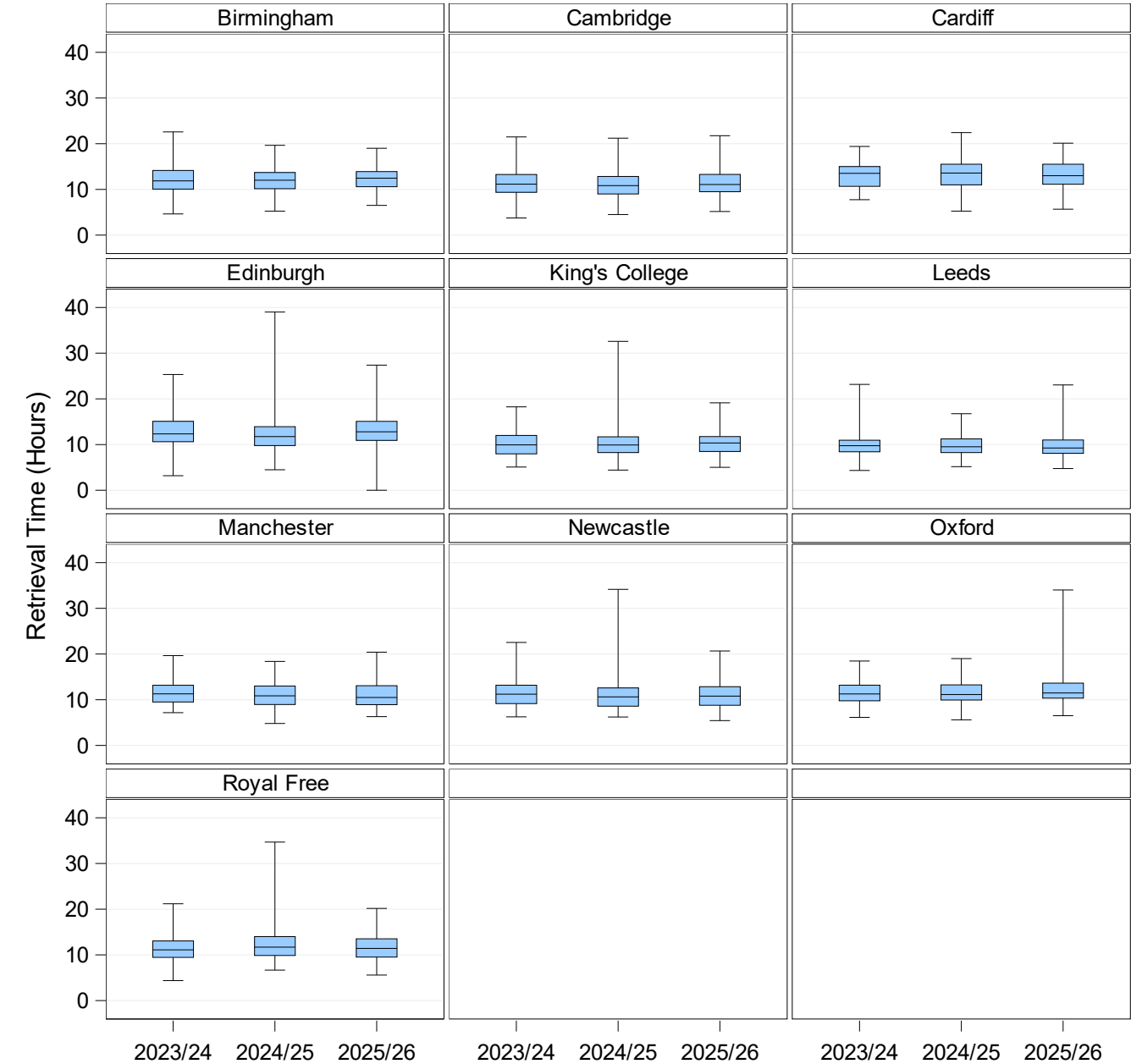


Figure 5b Median (IQR) time a cardiothoracic team is out attending a donor from departure to return to base, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026

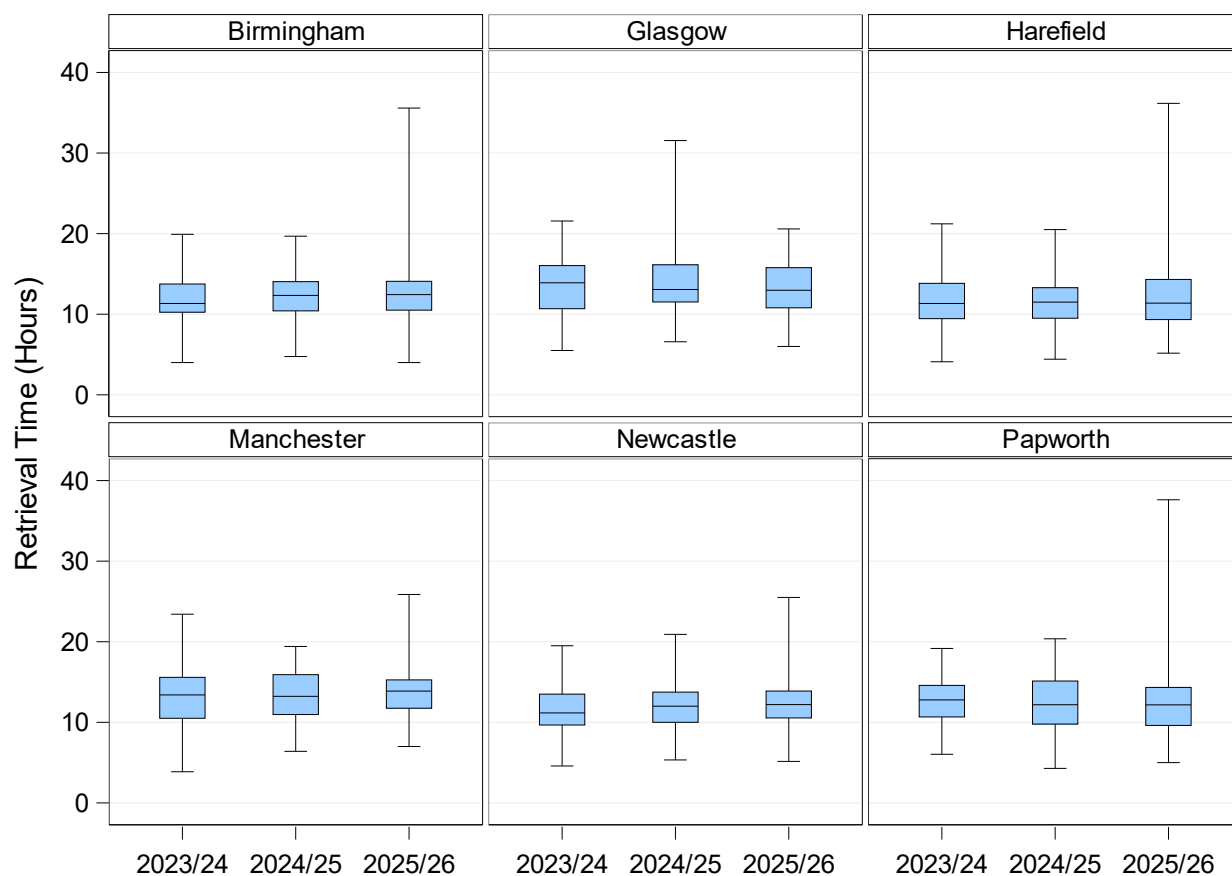


Figure 5c Median (IQR) time a cardiothoracic team is out attending a donor from departure to return to base for DCD heart attendances only, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026

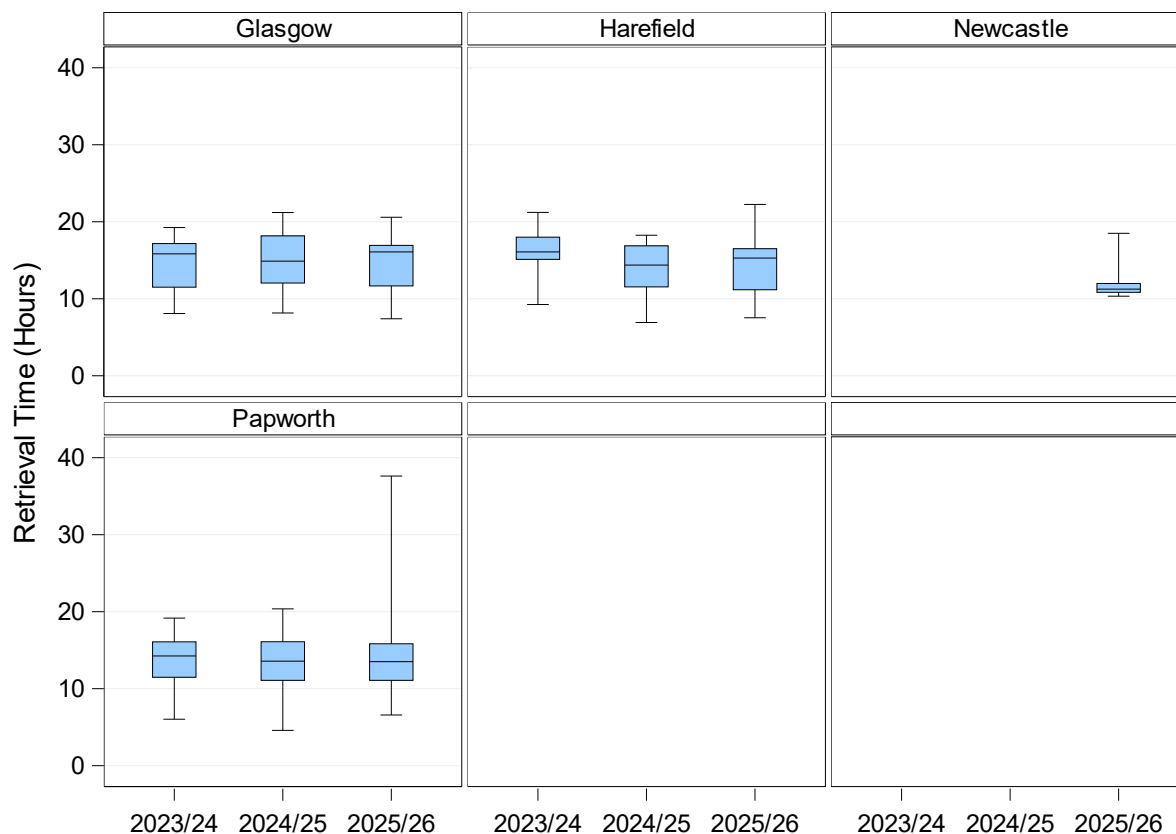
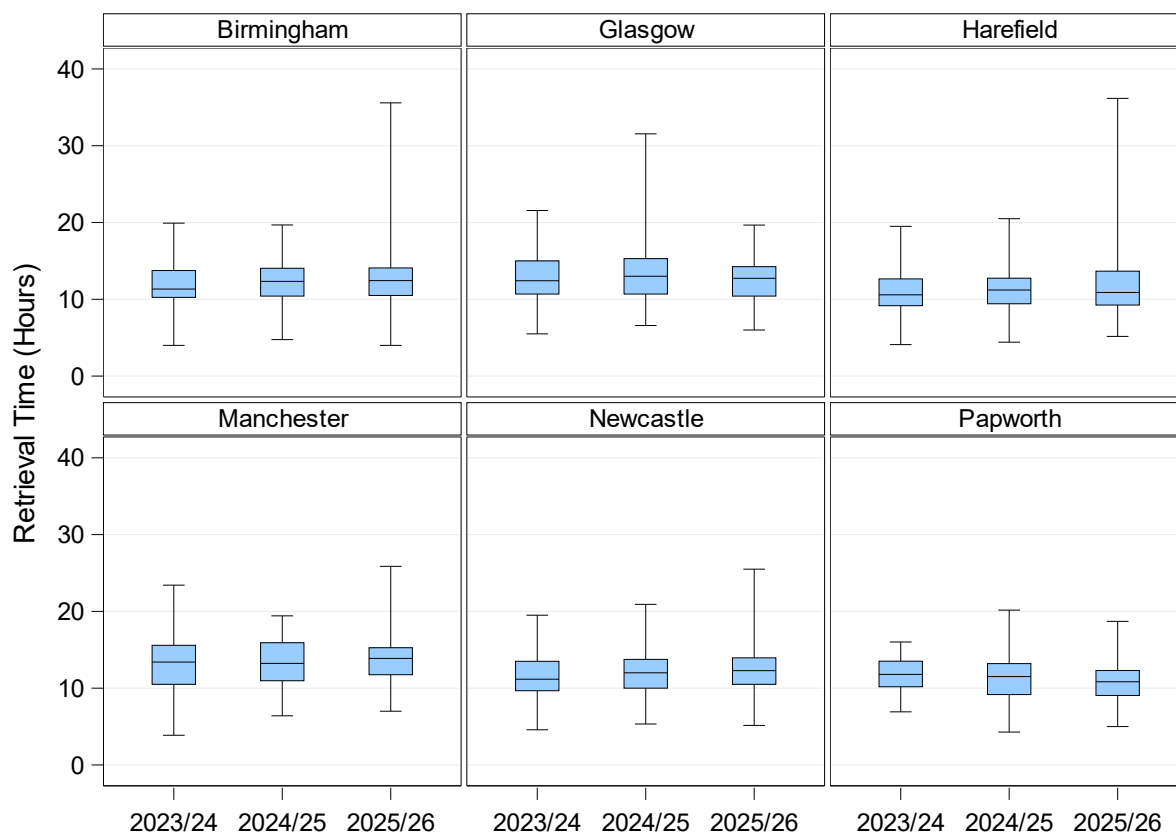


Figure 5d Median (IQR) time a cardiothoracic team is out attending a donor from departure to return to base for non DCD heart attendances, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026



The day of week and time of day at which mobilisation of NORS teams occurred throughout the year are presented as heat maps in **Figures 6a and 6b**, for abdominal and cardiothoracic teams, respectively. Mobilisation time is the time that the team actually departed from their base. Heat maps are used here to indicate the level of activity; darker shades are used to indicate high activity.

Figure 6a Mobilisation time of abdominal teams 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026

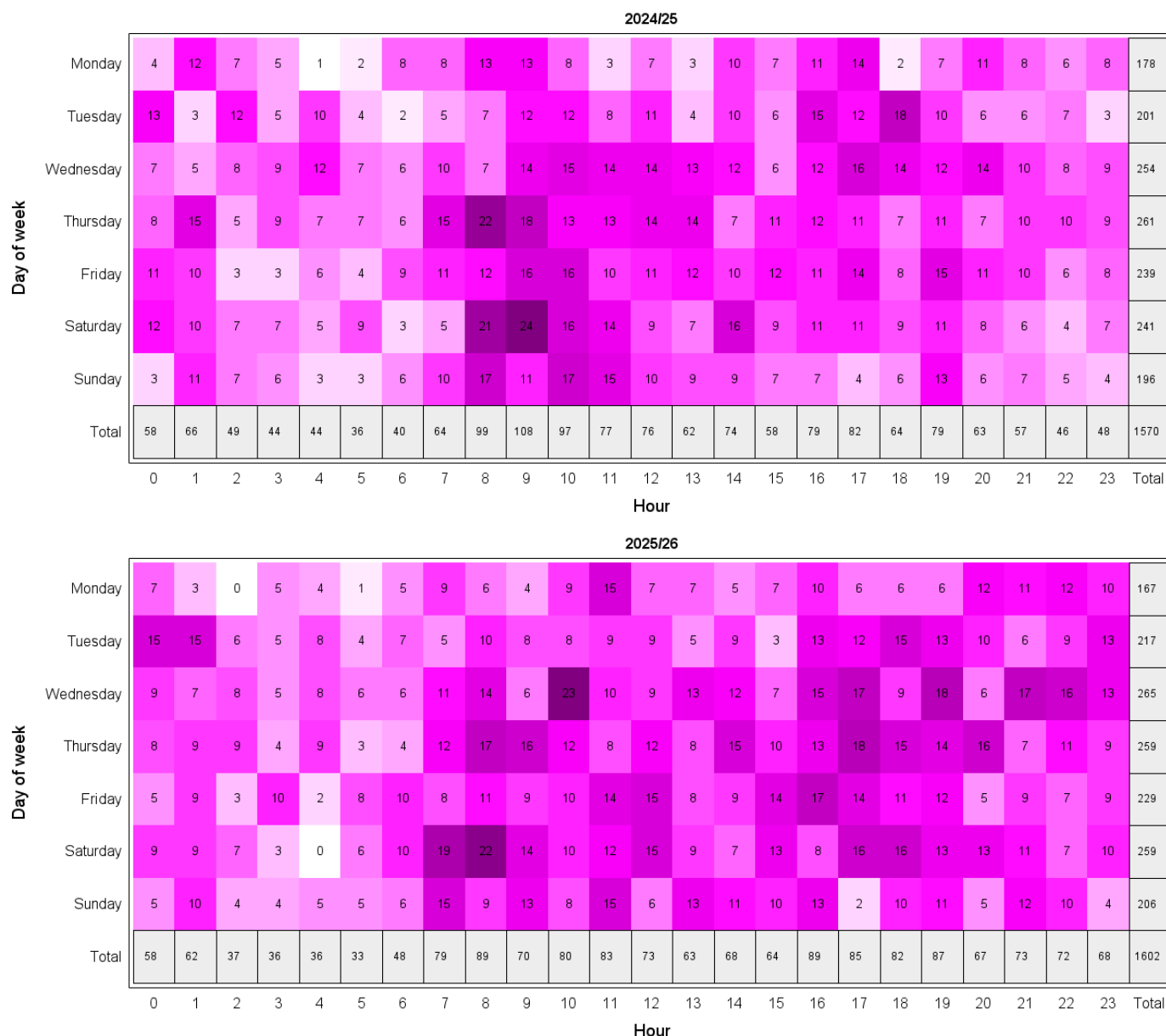
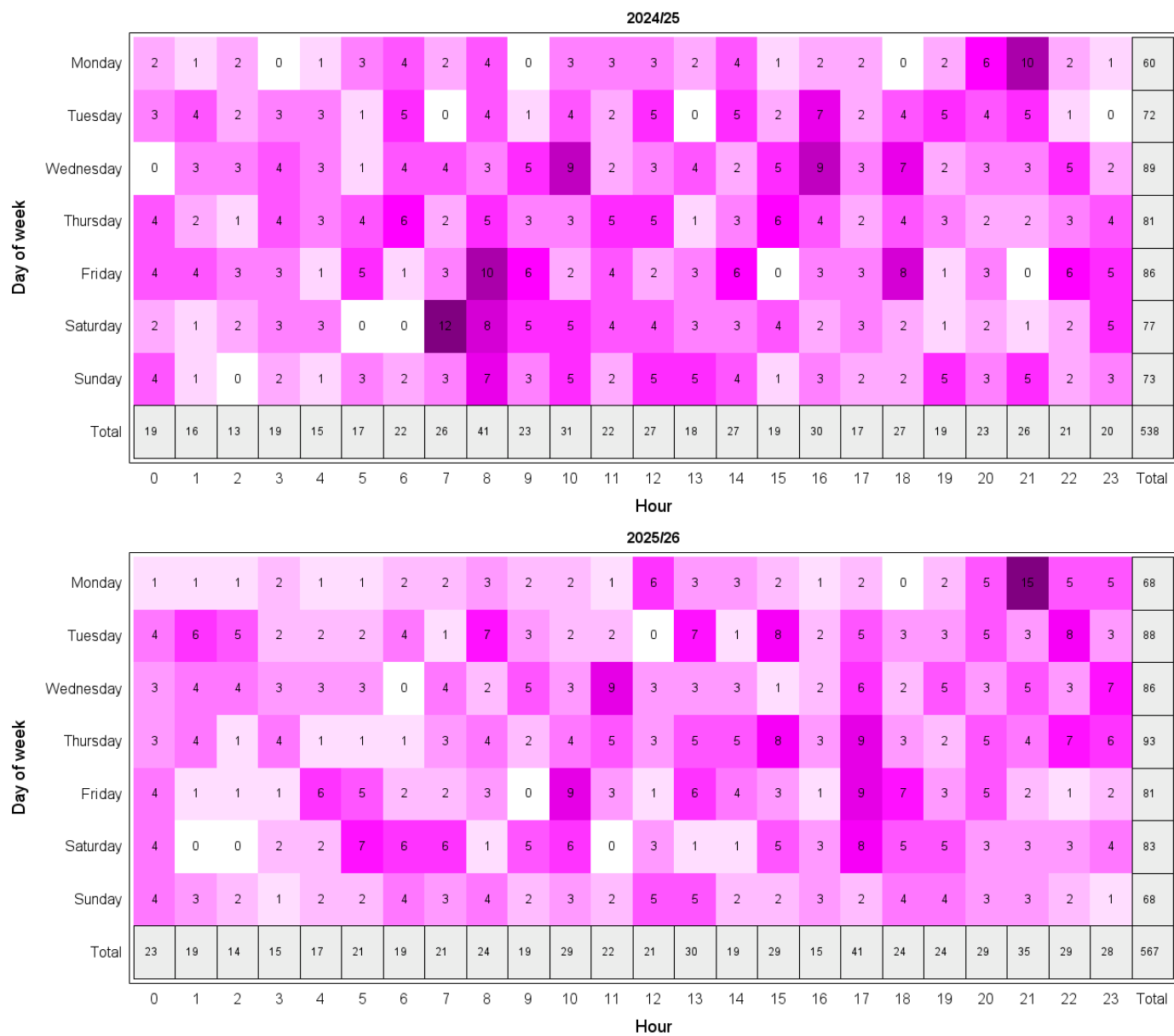


Figure 6b Mobilisation time of cardiothoracic teams 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026



The day of week and time of day at which donor cross-clamp occurred throughout the year, and for the previous year are presented as heat maps in **Figures 7a and 7b**, for abdominal only and joint abdominal and cardiothoracic donors, respectively. Note that time of cross-clamp is not available for all cases. Heat maps are used here to indicate the level of activity; darker shades are used to indicate higher activity.

Figure 7a Cross-clamp time of abdominal only donors 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026

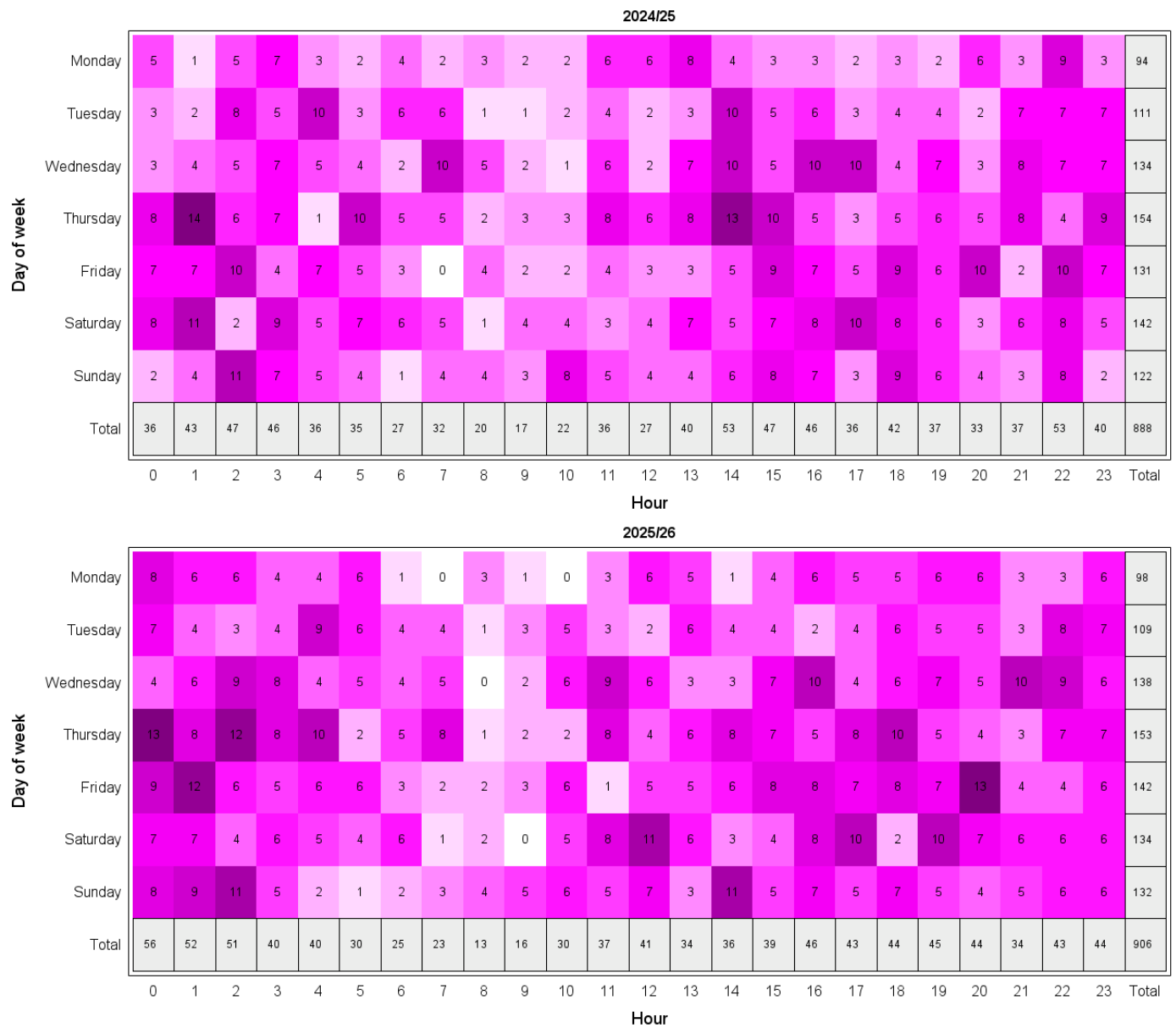
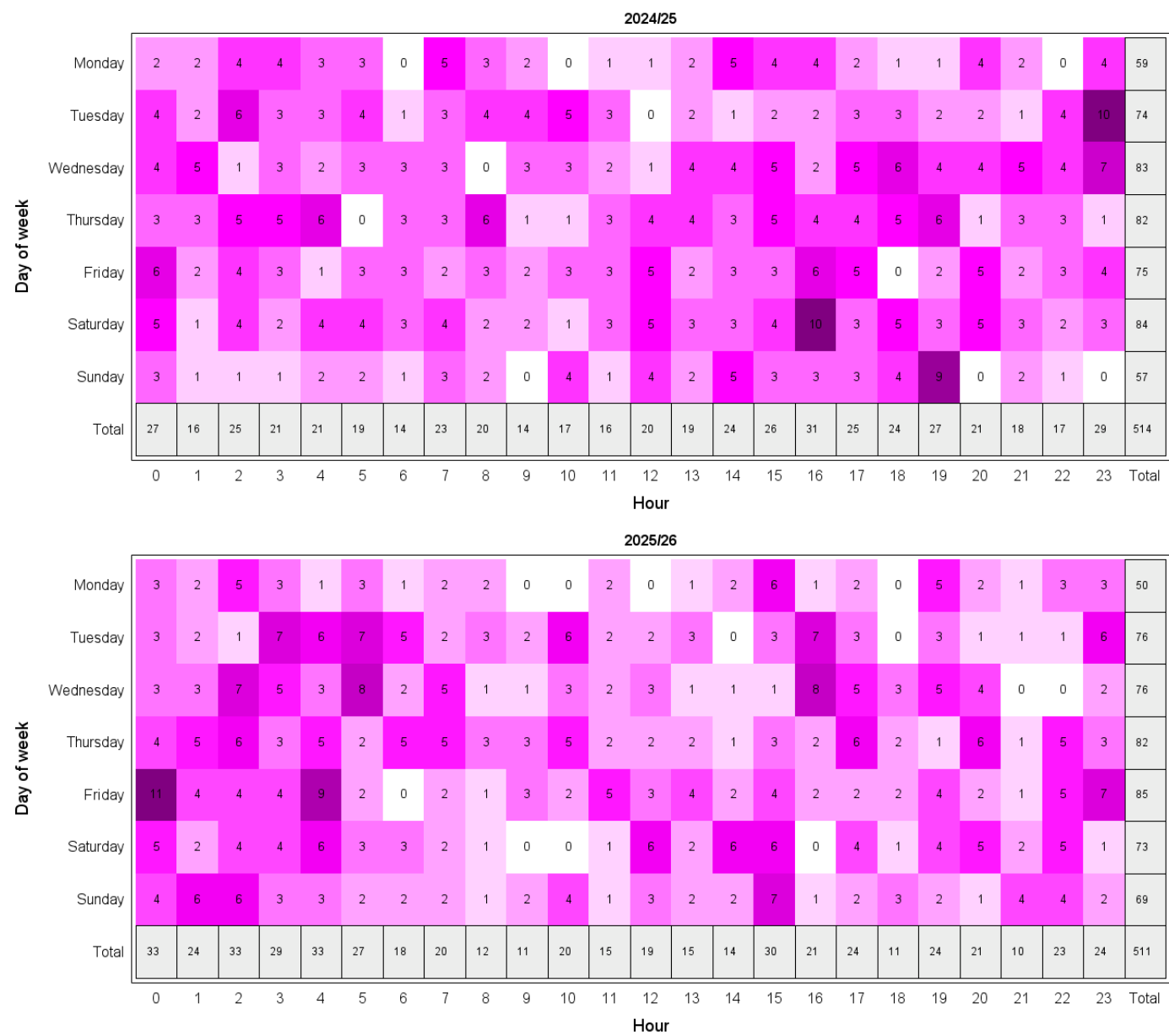


Figure 7b Cross-clamp time of abdominal and cardiothoracic donors, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026



The proportion of occasions where the travel time to a donor hospital is greater than three hours is shown in **Figures 8a and 8b**, for abdominal and cardiothoracic teams, respectively. Both figures include donor attendances where flights were used.

Figure 8a Proportion of donor attendances (actual and non-proceeding) outside of 3 hours travel time for each abdominal team, between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

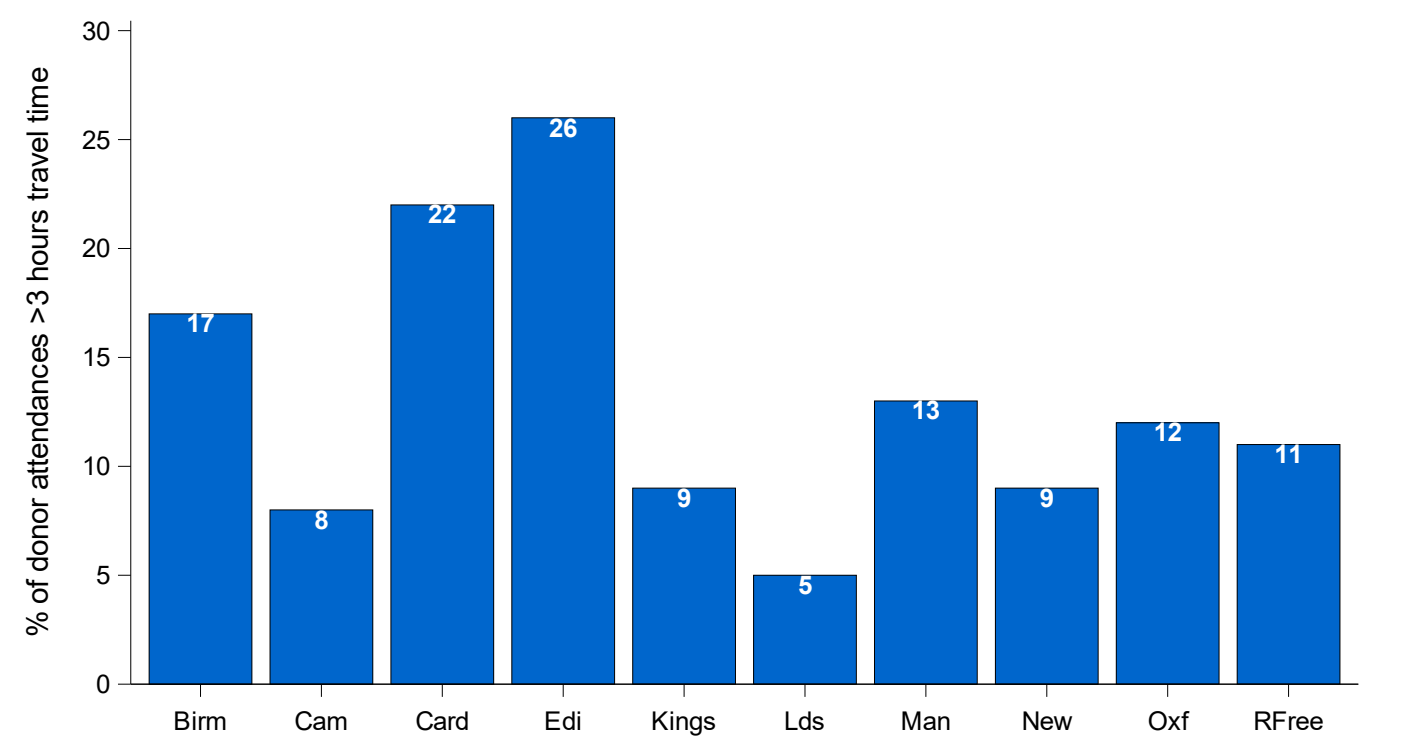
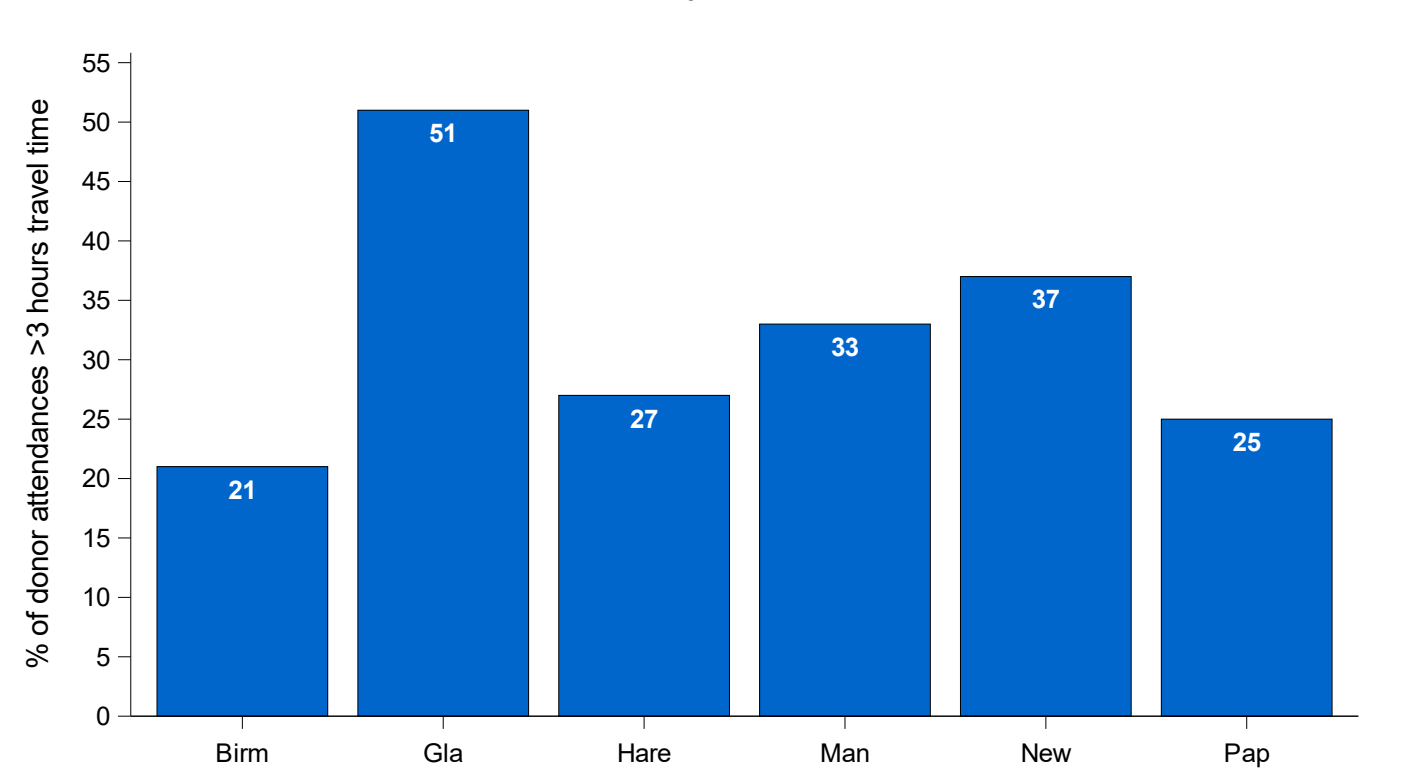


Figure 8b Proportion of donor attendances (actual and non-proceeding) outside of 3 hours travel time for each cardiothoracic team, between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026



The travel time to a donor hospital is shown in **Figures 9a and 9b**, for abdominal and cardiothoracic teams, respectively. Both figures include donor attendances where flights were used and are to the nearest hour.

Figure 9a Travel time to donor hospital for each abdominal team, between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

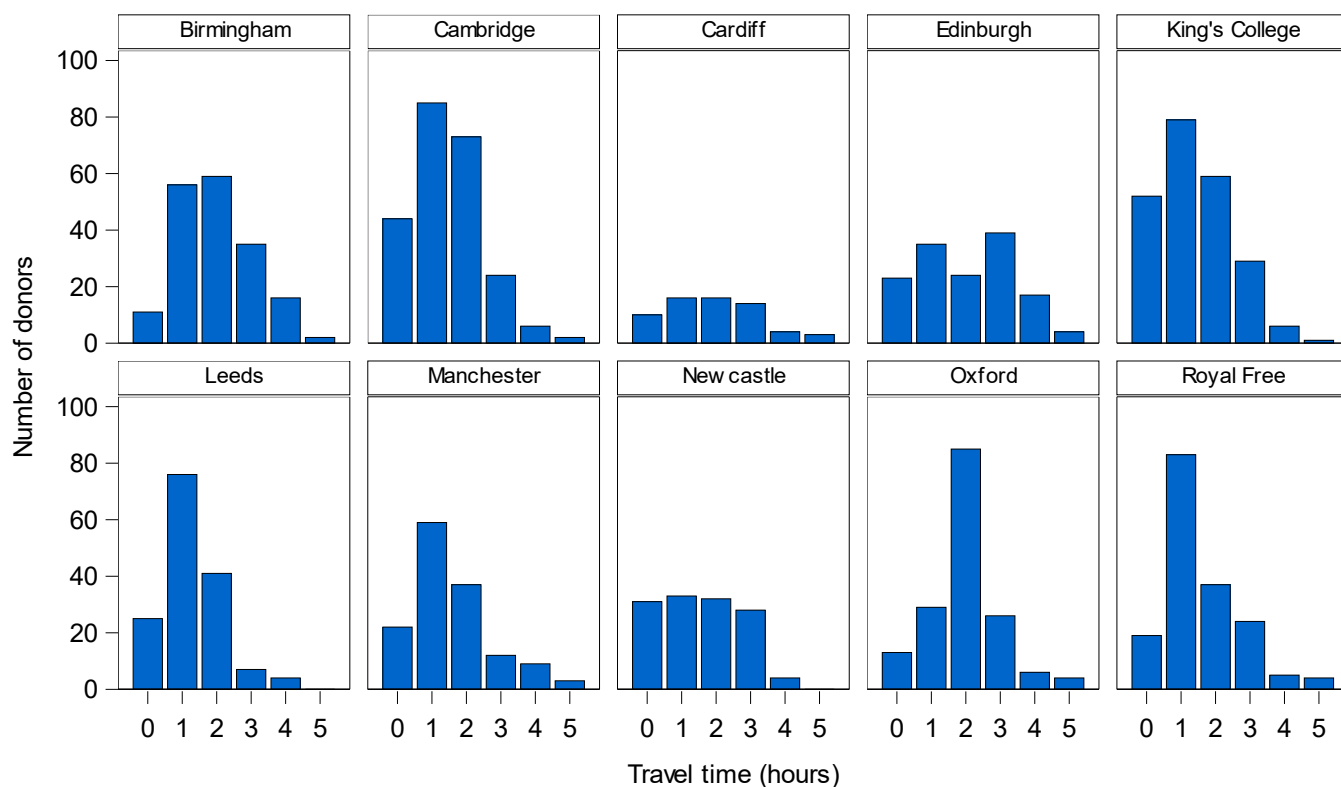
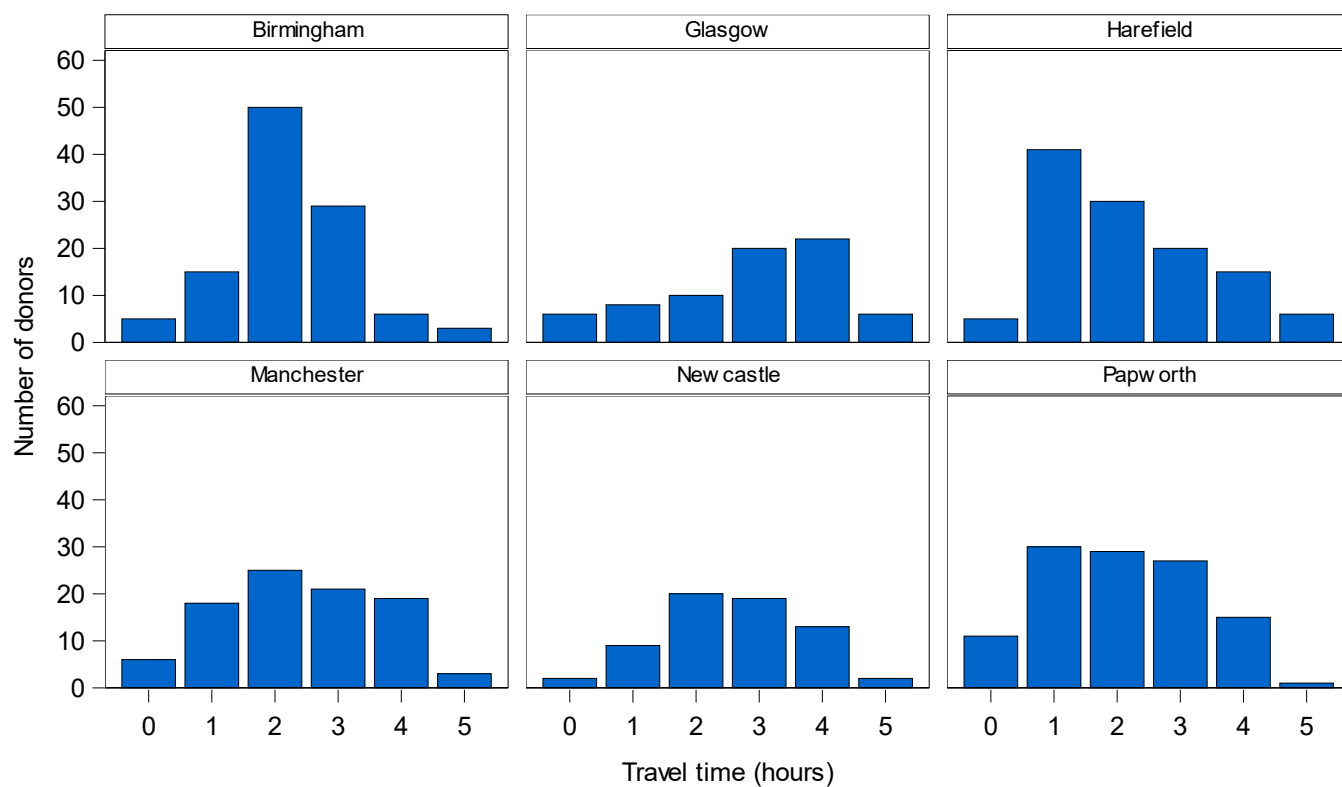


Figure 9b **Travel time to donor hospital for each cardiothoracic team, between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026**



Organs Retrieved

Table 2a shows the percentage of actual abdominal donors donating their kidneys, livers, pancreases and bowels by the team that attended and the donor type. Overall, 94% of actual DBD donors (donating at least one abdominal organ) donated their kidneys, 92% donated their liver, 29% donated their pancreas and 3% donated their bowel. The overall donation rates for actual DCD donors are lower for livers and pancreases and higher for kidneys, DCD donors cannot donate their small bowel.

Table 2a Organs retrieved from actual abdominal donors, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by attending retrieval team										
Attending retrieval team	No. of abdo. donors		% donors donating							
			Kidneys		Livers		Pancreases		Bowel	
	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD
Birmingham	79	84	94.9	97.6	93.7	65.5	29.1	16.7	1.3	-
Cambridge	86	115	91.9	96.5	94.2	72.2	37.2	22.6	12.8	-
Cardiff	25	33	96.0	100	88.0	75.8	28.0	12.1	0.0	-
Edinburgh	40	87	95.0	95.4	95.0	79.3	22.5	21.8	0.0	-
King's College	97	116	94.8	94.8	91.8	73.3	26.8	14.7	0.0	-
Leeds	64	70	93.8	95.7	89.1	74.3	25.0	18.6	0.0	-
Manchester	66	65	97.0	100	92.4	52.3	30.3	20.0	1.5	-
Newcastle	52	59	94.2	96.6	90.4	67.8	30.8	25.4	0.0	-
Oxford	64	67	93.8	98.5	90.6	64.2	34.4	17.9	7.8	-
Royal Free	59	90	88.1	92.2	93.2	65.6	20.3	14.4	0.0	-
Total	632	786	93.8	96.3	92.1	69.3	29.0	18.6	2.8	-

Table 2b shows the number of abdominal donors by what organs were donated, this is broken down by donor type and the attending retrieval team.

Table 2b Abdominal organs donated, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by attending retrieval team								
Attending retrieval team	Total donors		Kidney only		Liver only		Abdominal multi-organ	
	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD
Birmingham	79	84	4	27	4	2	71	55
Cambridge	86	115	4	28	7	4	75	83
Cardiff	25	33	3	8	1	0	21	25
Edinburgh	40	87	1	18	2	4	37	65
King's College	97	116	7	31	5	6	85	79
Leeds	64	70	7	17	3	2	54	51
Manchester	66	65	5	29	2	0	59	36
Newcastle	52	59	5	17	3	1	44	41
Oxford	64	67	5	23	4	1	55	43
Royal Free	59	90	2	30	7	7	50	53
Total	632	786	43	228	38	27	551	531

Table 2c shows the number of abdominal organs retrieved and the percentage that were transplanted, this is broken down by organ type and the attending retrieval team.

Table 2c Abdominal organs retrieved and percentage that went on to be transplanted, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by attending retrieval team								
Attending retrieval team	Kidneys		Livers		Pancreases		Bowel	
	Retrieved	% txd	Retrieved	% txd	Retrieved	% txd	Retrieved	% txd
DBD								
Birmingham	150	89.3	74	89.2	23	60.9	1	100
Cambridge	158	92.4	81	92.6	32	59.4	11	100
Cardiff	48	95.8	22	100	7	71.4	0	-
Edinburgh	75	82.7	38	81.6	9	44.4	0	-
King's College	174	89.7	89	83.1	26	38.5	0	-
Leeds	116	87.1	57	77.2	16	43.8	0	-
Manchester	128	83.6	61	80.3	20	70.0	1	100
Newcastle	97	91.8	47	95.7	16	56.3	0	-
Oxford	119	91.6	58	81.0	22	72.7	5	80.0
Royal Free	102	83.3	55	76.4	12	41.7	0	-
Total	1167	88.7	582	85.1	183	56.3	18	94.4
DCD								
Birmingham	163	83.4	55	65.5	14	7.1	-	-
Cambridge	221	81.0	83	79.5	26	46.2	-	-
Cardiff	65	93.8	25	48.0	4	25.0	-	-
Edinburgh	163	81.6	69	68.1	19	57.9	-	-
King's College	217	84.3	85	63.5	17	47.1	-	-
Leeds	131	90.1	52	75.0	13	53.8	-	-
Manchester	127	85.8	34	58.8	13	69.2	-	-
Newcastle	114	93.0	40	62.5	15	20.0	-	-
Oxford	130	85.4	43	65.1	12	50.0	-	-
Royal Free	166	83.7	59	78.0	13	46.2	-	-
Total	1497	85.2	545	68.4	146	43.8	-	-
Total	2664	86.7	1127	77.0	329	50.8	18	94.4

Figures 10a and 10b show the number of organs retrieved, by attending retrieval team, for DBD and DCD donors, respectively.

Figure 10a DBD abdominal organs retrieved, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 by attending retrieval team

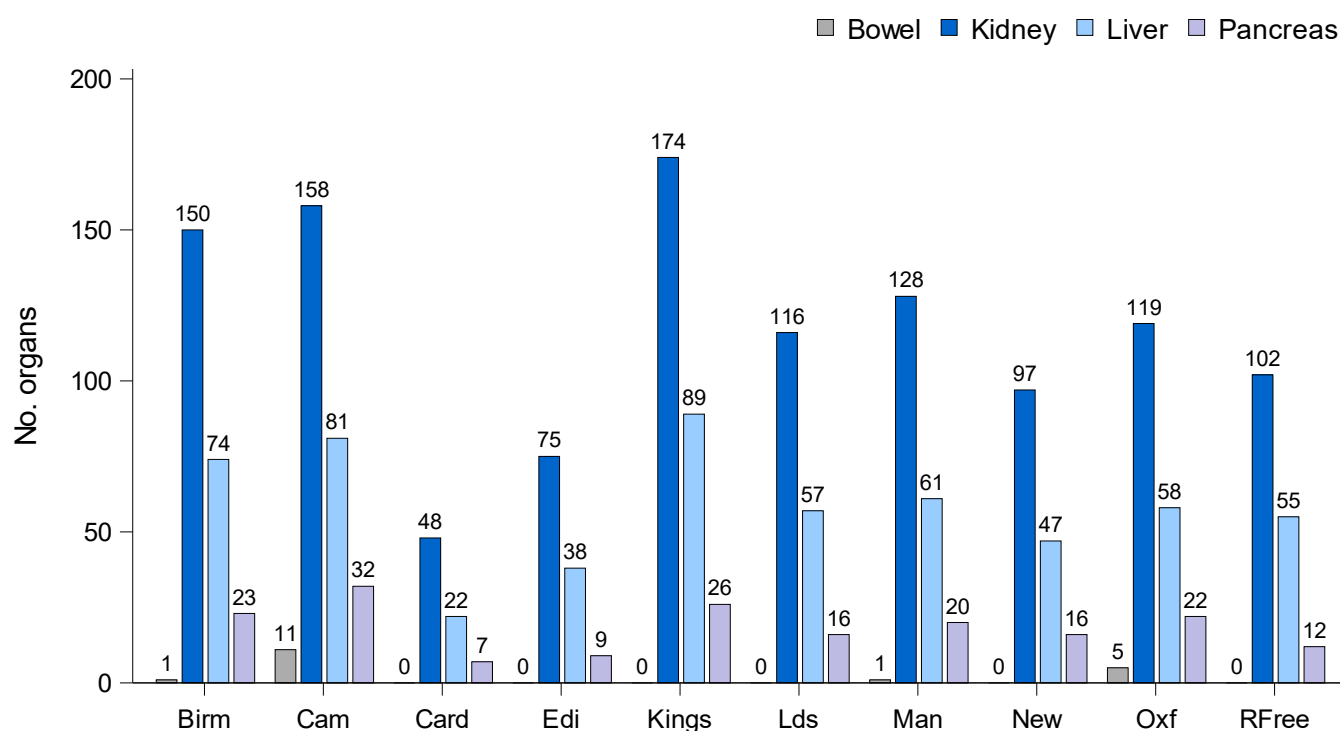


Figure 10b DCD abdominal organs retrieved, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 by attending retrieval team

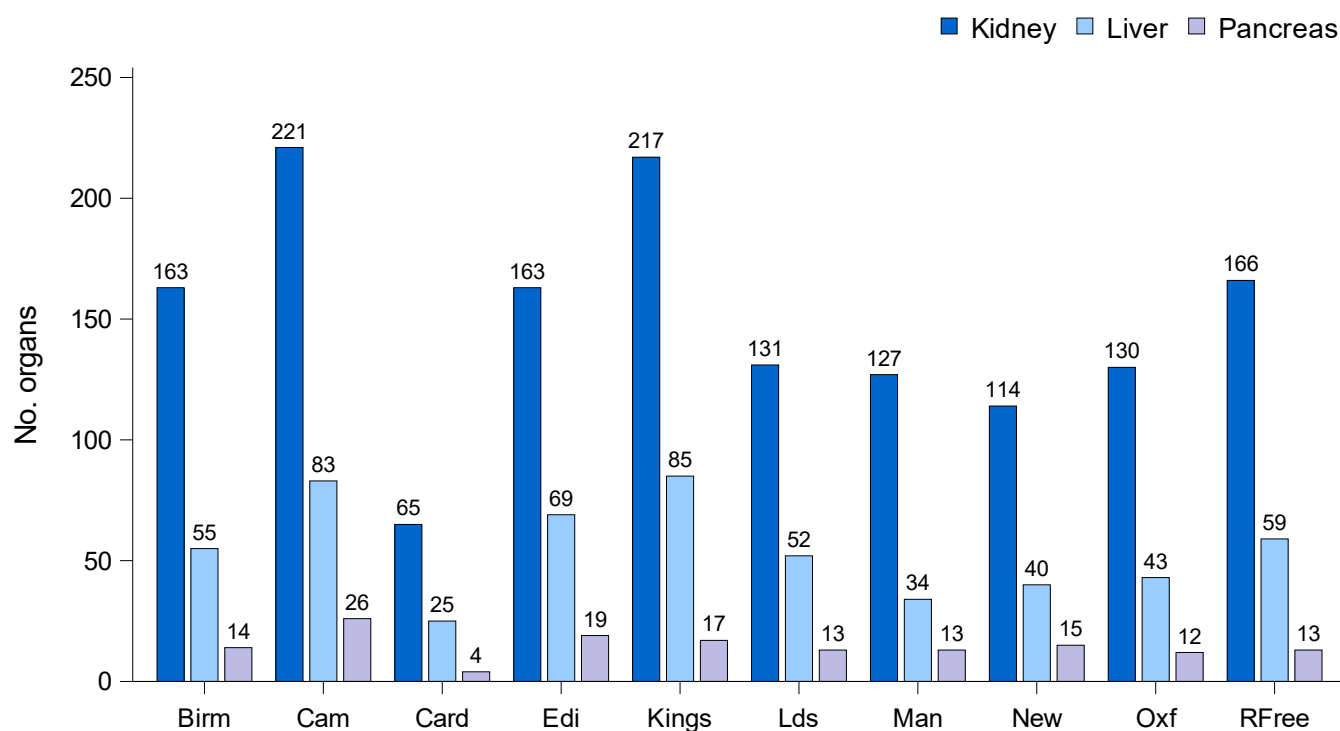


Table 2d shows the mean number of abdominal organs retrieved and transplanted for each proceeding abdominal donor, by attending retrieval team and donor type. Mean donor age is also reported.

- The mean number of organs retrieved per DBD donor ranged from 2.9 to 3.4 across teams, analysis of variance indicated that the differences were not statistically significant ($p=0.05$).
- The mean number of organs transplanted per DBD donor ranged from 2.2 to 3.0 across teams, analysis of variance indicated that the differences were statistically significant ($p<0.01$).
- The mean number of organs retrieved per DCD donor ranged from 2.6 to 2.9 across teams, analysis of variance indicated that the differences were not statistically significant ($p=0.33$).
- The mean number of organs transplanted per DCD donor ranged from 2.1 to 2.3 across teams, analysis of variance indicated that the differences were not statistically significant ($p=0.73$).

Table 2d Mean donor age, organs retrieved, and organs transplanted, per proceeding abdominal donor, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by attending retrieval team														
Attending retrieval team	Actual abdo. donors	Donor age		DBD Orgs. retrieved		Orgs. txd		Actual abdo. donors	Donor age		DCD Orgs. retrieved		Orgs. txd	
		Mean	(SD.)	Mean	(SD.)	Mean	(SD.)		Mean	(SD.)	Mean	(SD.)	Mean	(SD.)
Birmingham	79	51.8	(14.7)	3.3	(1.2)	2.8	(1.3)	84	57.7	(14.9)	2.8	(0.7)	2.1	(0.9)
Cambridge	86	50.9	(16.8)	3.4	(1.4)	3.0	(1.5)	115	55.8	(15.0)	2.9	(1.1)	2.3	(1.4)
Cardiff	25	54.4	(16.6)	3.1	(0.8)	2.9	(0.8)	33	59.8	(14.8)	2.8	(0.6)	2.2	(0.8)
Edinburgh	40	50.6	(12.8)	3.1	(0.7)	2.4	(1.2)	87	53.1	(15.8)	2.9	(0.8)	2.2	(1.0)
King's College	97	54.1	(14.9)	3.0	(0.8)	2.5	(0.9)	116	60.4	(14.3)	2.8	(0.8)	2.1	(1.0)
Leeds	64	53.8	(13.2)	3.0	(0.8)	2.4	(1.0)	70	52.6	(15.5)	2.8	(0.7)	2.3	(0.9)
Manchester	66	50.3	(17.0)	3.2	(0.7)	2.6	(1.1)	65	54.3	(18.1)	2.7	(0.8)	2.1	(1.0)
Newcastle	52	49.5	(15.7)	3.1	(0.8)	2.8	(0.9)	59	50.9	(16.2)	2.9	(0.8)	2.3	(0.8)
Oxford	64	52.0	(18.4)	3.2	(1.0)	2.8	(1.2)	67	57.0	(14.4)	2.8	(0.8)	2.2	(1.0)
Royal Free	59	54.2	(16.5)	2.9	(0.8)	2.2	(1.1)	90	56.2	(13.8)	2.6	(0.8)	2.1	(1.1)
Total	632	52.2	(15.7)	3.1	(1.0)	2.6	(1.2)	786	55.9	(15.4)	2.8	(0.8)	2.2	(1.0)

Table 3a shows the number of cardiothoracic organs retrieved and the percentage that were transplanted, this is broken down by organ type and the attending retrieval team. Overall, 40% of DBD donors (donating at least one cardiothoracic organ) donated their heart only, 41% donated their lung(s) only, and 20% donated their heart and lung(s).

DCD heart retrieval is a highly complex procedure which can only be undertaken using perfusion technology. The technique was developed in the UK, with activity increasing over the past few years due to a focused pilot. The retrieval of DCD hearts is undertaken by highly experienced staff within specific NORS teams, with substantive funding secured from 2025/26 onwards. Overall, 33% of actual DCD donors donated their heart only, 40% donated their lung(s) only, and 27% donated their heart and lung(s). DCD heart retrieval contributed to 40% of all heart transplants in the UK in 2025/26. The Perfusion Technologies section of this report contains more information on DCD heart activity.

Table 3a Organs retrieved from actual cardiothoracic donors, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by attending retrieval team								
Attending retrieval team	DBD donors donating				DCD donors donating			
	N	Heart only (%)	Lung only (%)	Heart & lung (%)	N	Heart only (%)	Lung only (%)	Heart & lung (%)
Birmingham	57	33.3	38.6	28.1	10	0.0	100	0.0
Glasgow	20	50.0	45.0	5.0	30	46.7	23.3	30.0
Harefield	24	50.0	45.8	4.2	39	35.9	46.2	17.9
Manchester	56	41.1	32.1	26.8	8	0.0	100	0.0
Newcastle	33	42.4	42.4	15.2	8	25.0	37.5	37.5
Papworth	20	30.0	55.0	15.0	56	35.7	25.0	39.3
Total	210	40.0	40.5	19.5	151	33.1	39.7	27.2

Table 3b shows the number of cardiothoracic organs retrieved and the percentage that were transplanted, this is broken down by organ type and the attending retrieval team. For example, there were 251 DBD lungs retrieved and of these 92% were transplanted.

Table 3b Cardiothoracic organs retrieved and percentage that went on to be transplanted, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by attending retrieval team				
Attending retrieval team	Hearts		Lungs	
	Retrieved	% txd	Retrieved	% txd
DBD				
Birmingham	35	100	76	92.1
Glasgow	11	100	20	100
Harefield	13	100	24	91.7
Manchester	38	100	65	90.8
Newcastle	19	94.7	38	89.5
Papworth	9	100	28	92.9
Total	125	99.2	251	92.0
DCD				
Birmingham	0	-	20	80.0
Glasgow	23	95.7	32	75.0
Harefield	21	90.5	50	84.0
Manchester	0	-	16	100
Newcastle	5	100	12	100
Papworth	42	95.2	72	79.2
Total	91	94.5	202	82.7
Total	216	97.2	453	87.9

Figures 11a and 11b show the number of organs retrieved, by attending retrieval team, for DBD and DCD donors, respectively.

Figure 11a DBD cardiothoracic organs retrieved, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 by attending retrieval team

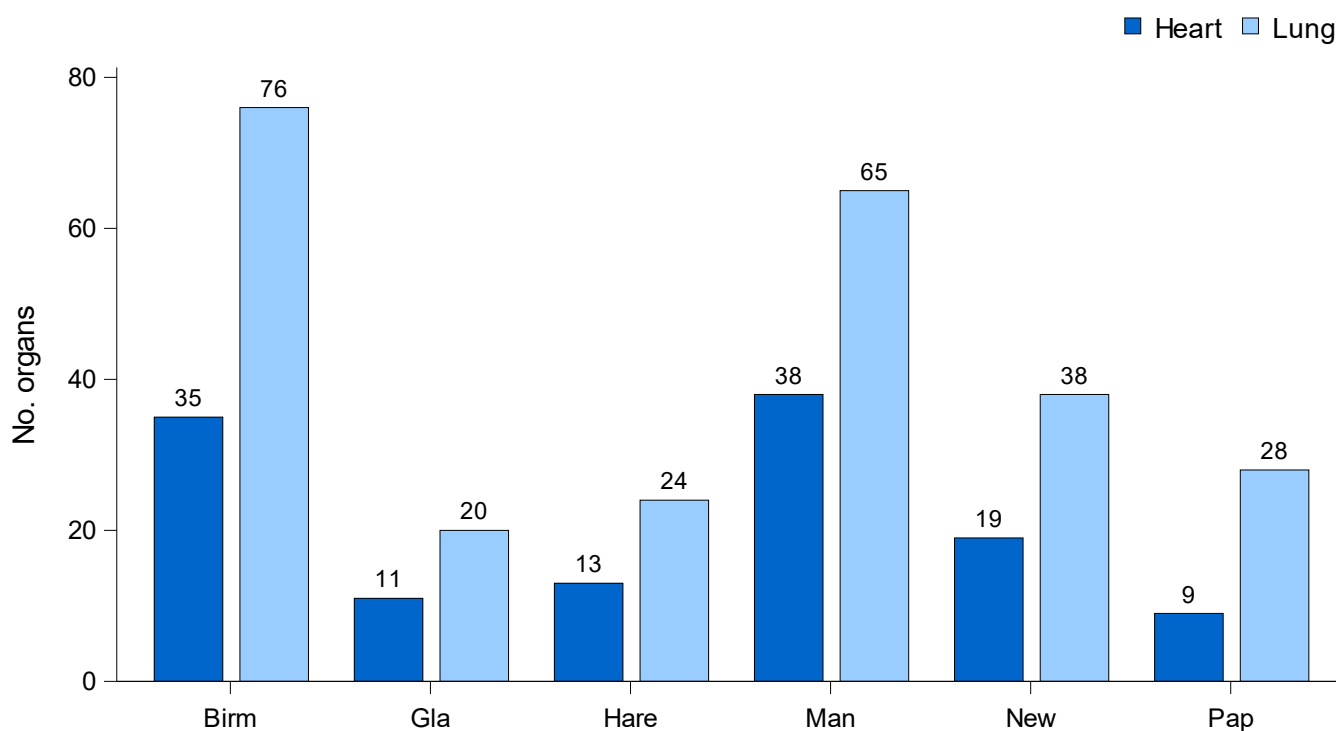


Figure 11b DCD cardiothoracic organs retrieved, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 by attending retrieval team

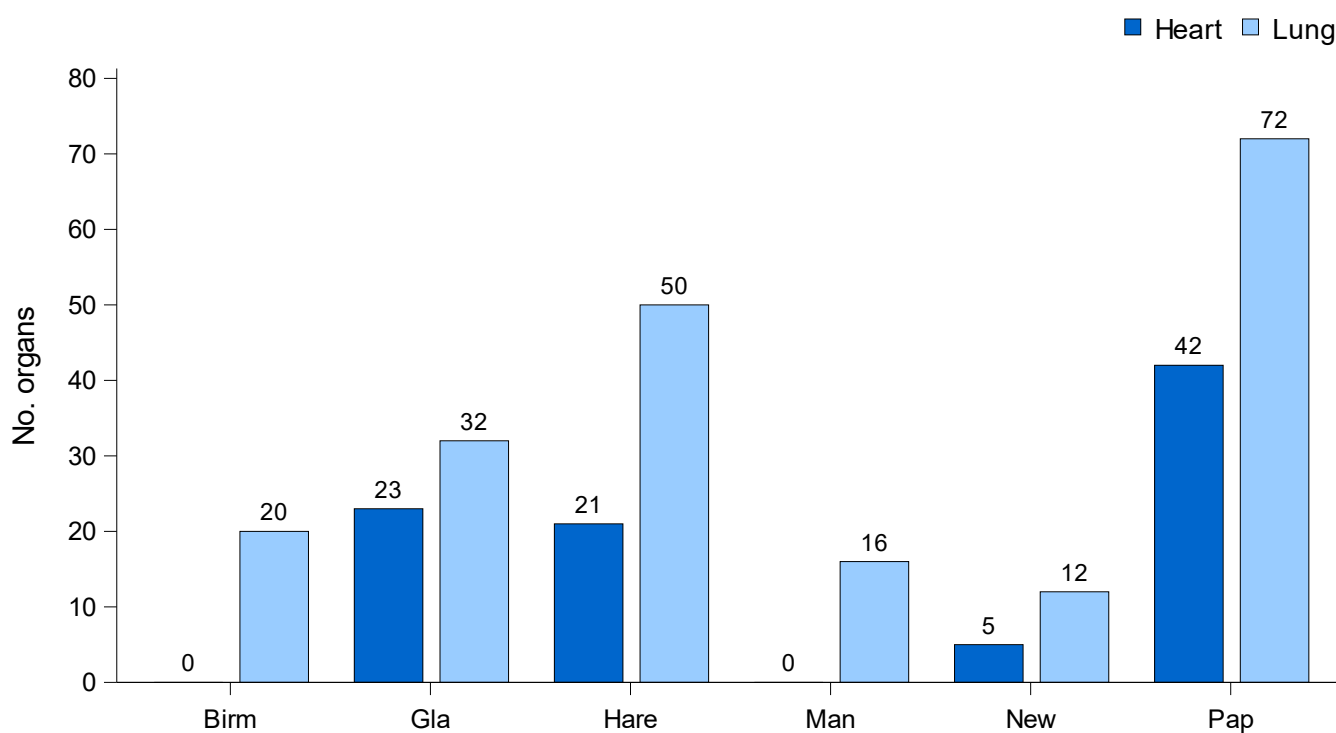
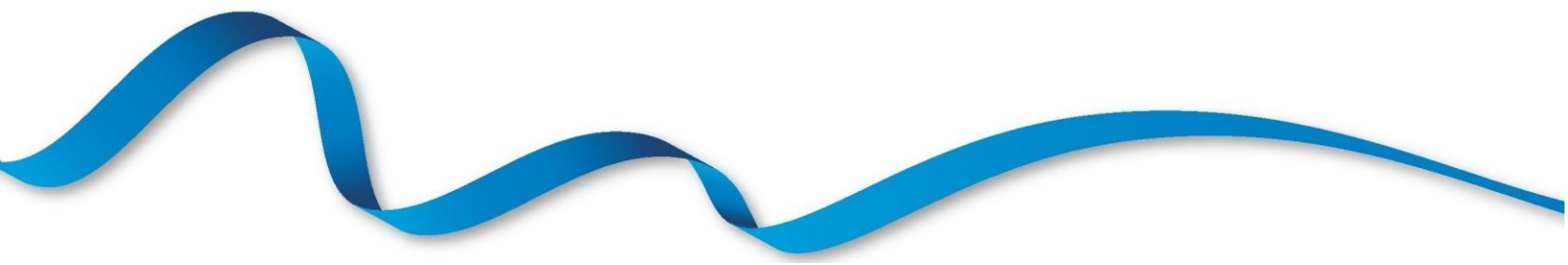


Table 3c shows the mean number of cardiothoracic organs retrieved and transplanted for each proceeding cardiothoracic donor, by attending retrieval team and donor type. Mean donor age is also reported.

- The mean number of organs retrieved per DBD donor ranged from 1.5 to 1.9 across teams, analysis of variance indicated that the differences were not statistically significant ($p=0.16$).
- The mean number of organs transplanted per DBD donor ranged from 1.5 to 1.8 across teams, analysis of variance indicated that the differences were not statistically significant ($p=0.35$).
- The mean number of organs retrieved per DCD donor ranged from 1.8 to 2.1 across teams, analysis of variance indicated that the differences were not statistically significant ($p=0.72$).
- The mean number of organs transplanted per DCD donor ranged from 1.5 to 2.1 across teams, analysis of variance indicated that the differences were not statistically significant ($p=0.52$).

Table 3c Mean donor age, organs retrieved, and organs transplanted, per proceeding cardiothoracic donor, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by attending retrieval team														
Attending retrieval team	Actual cardio. donors	Donor age		DBD Orgs. retrieved		Orgs. txd		Actual cardio. donors	Donor age		DCD Orgs. retrieved		Orgs. txd	
		Mean	(SD.)	Mean	(SD.)	Mean	(SD.)		Mean	(SD.)	Mean	(SD.)	Mean	(SD.)
Birmingham	57	41.1	(13.9)	1.9	(0.8)	1.8	(0.9)	10	47.1	(17.5)	2.0	(0.0)	1.6	(0.8)
Glasgow	20	43.6	(14.3)	1.6	(0.6)	1.6	(0.6)	30	37.6	(10.6)	1.8	(0.9)	1.5	(1.0)
Harefield	24	45.6	(15.2)	1.5	(0.6)	1.5	(0.7)	39	40.6	(12.8)	1.8	(0.7)	1.6	(1.0)
Manchester	56	38.7	(13.7)	1.8	(0.8)	1.7	(0.9)	8	43.8	(18.7)	2.0	(0.0)	2.0	(0.0)
Newcastle	33	42.2	(13.1)	1.7	(0.7)	1.6	(0.8)	8	32.1	(24.7)	2.1	(0.8)	2.1	(0.8)
Papworth	20	45.4	(15.2)	1.9	(0.7)	1.8	(0.8)	56	38.1	(13.5)	2.0	(0.9)	1.7	(1.0)
Total	210	41.8	(14.1)	1.8	(0.7)	1.7	(0.8)	151	39.2	(14.2)	1.9	(0.8)	1.7	(0.9)

PERFUSION TECHNOLOGIES



The term 'Perfusion Technologies' refers to the use of non-traditional techniques by which organ retrieval and organ quality is enhanced by the use of perfusion technology at the retrieval stage. Perfusion Technologies are contributing to the successful expansion of clinical organ retrieval from deceased donors, in particular DCD donors. The resulting increase in the numbers of organs for transplant, and the enhanced safety and quality of these organs, contributes significantly to UK clinical transplantation.

Perfusion Technologies are highly successful, and substantive funding to support commissioning of A-NRP and DCD heart retrieval has been awarded from 2025/26 onwards.

Abdominal Normothermic Regional Perfusion

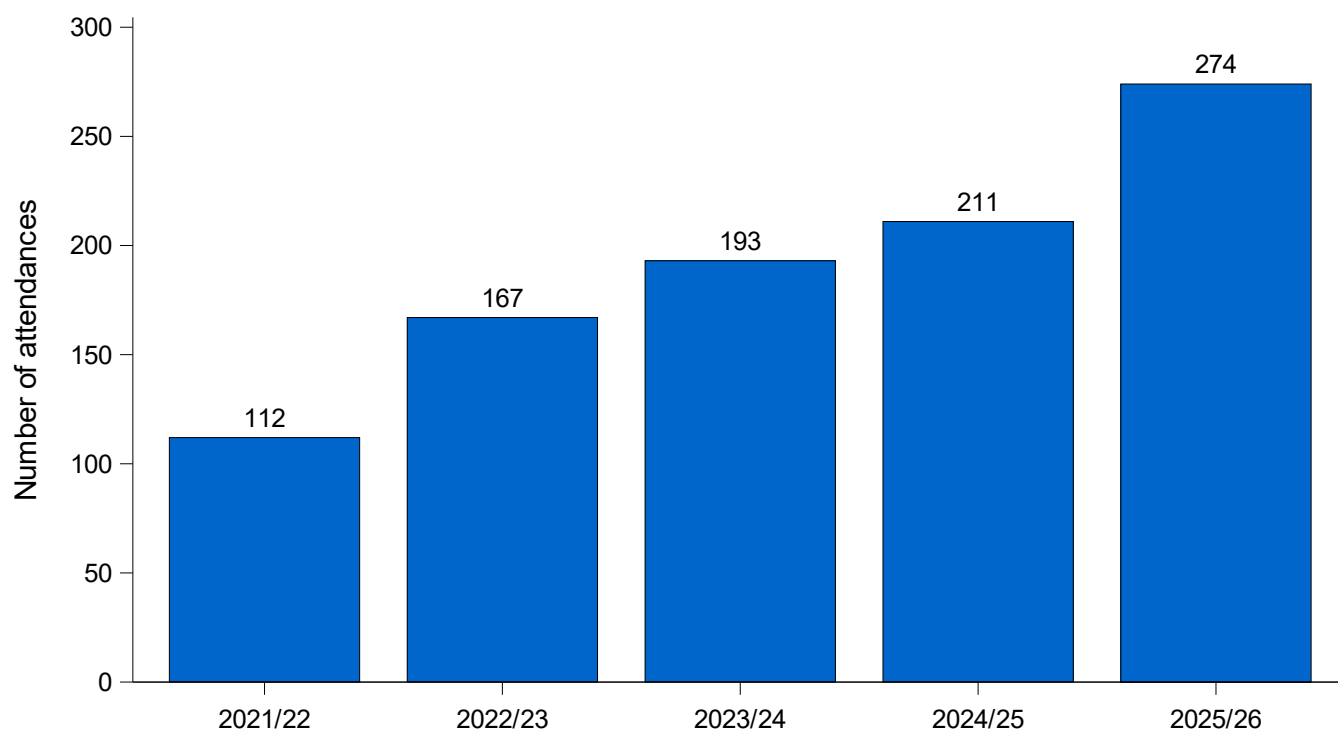
Abdominal Normothermic Regional Perfusion (A-NRP) in DCD donors has been in use in the UK since 2010 and has formed part of the contracted NORS service since April 2025. Currently, 8 of the 10 abdominal NORS teams are able to perform A-NRP, with the remaining teams planning to start A-NRP in the next year. Teams are at varying stages of roll out and have differing levels of rota cover to provide this service as they work to recruit and train staff. A national steering group provides oversight and governance for A-NRP.

Table 4 shows the number of DCD attendances for all abdominal teams in the last year, along with how many underwent NRP and the number of donors proceeding to donation. Of the 984 DCD attendances, 274 (28%) underwent NRP, with 224 (82%) of the NRP attendances proceeding to donate at least one organ. Note these numbers contain 16 DCD attendances where the NRP team below were not the main abdominal team in attendance, but did attend to perform NRP.

Table 4 DCD and NRP attendances by A-NRP retrieval team, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026				
Retrieval team	All DCD attendances*	Total proceeding ¹	NRP attendances	NRP proceeding
Birmingham	103	85	23	19
Cambridge	149	115	81	64
Cardiff	41	34	30	26
Edinburgh	103	86	76	65
King's College	132	112	1	-
Leeds	88	69	-	-
Manchester	78	65	-	-
Newcastle	75	58	14	9
Oxford	94	65	5	4
Royal Free	121	97	44	37
Total	984	786	274	224
¹ Proceeded to donate at least one abdominal organ for the purpose of transplantation				
*Activity for this table is against the team undertaking A-NRP and therefore team specific DCD numbers may differ to elsewhere in the report				

Figure 12 shows the number of A-NRP attendances for the most recent five financial years. Attendances have been increasing each year, with 2025/26 having a 30% increase in attendances compared to the previous year.

Figure 12 A-NRP donor attendances between 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026



Organ utilisation rates for the 224 proceeding NRP donors between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 is shown in **Table 5** compared to the general DCD donor population donating at least one organ, excluding A-NRP donors. Transplantation rates for kidneys and livers are higher in the NRP population when comparing to the general DCD population.

Table 5 Organ offer outcomes from 224 NRP donors, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026					
Outcome	Kidney ¹	Liver	Pancreas	Lungs ¹	Heart
Offered	218	222	91	84	45
Accepted	217	216	66	52	35
Retrieved	215	200	48	23	22
Transplanted	199	146	20	15	20
% Transplanted of offered	91%	66%	22%	18%	44%
% Transplanted of retrieved	93%	73%	42%	65%	91%
National DCD organ % transplanted of offered*	89%	44%	22%	32%	51%
National DCD organ % transplanted of retrieved*	91%	66%	45%	88%	96%

¹ at least one
*Based on all UK proceeding DCD donors between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 where A-NRP was not intended

DCD Hearts

The DCD heart program has formed part of the commissioned NORS service since April 2025, with the service currently being delivered by Papworth, Harefield, Newcastle and Glasgow. Due to changing donor demographics and increasing DCD heart activity, work is ongoing to look at the safe expansion of the DCD heart retrieval service in a sustainable way.

Table 6 shows DCD heart activity by team between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. Overall, there were 116 attendances where DCD heart retrieval was planned, with 91 (78%) proceeding to DCD heart retrieval, resulting in 86 transplants. Attendances are identified through Retrieval Team Information forms as well as DCD Heart Passports. Information on recipient outcomes following DCD heart transplantation can be found in the NHSBT Annual Report on Heart Transplantation.

Table 6 DCD heart activity by centre, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026			
Retrieval team	Attended ¹	Retrieved	Transplanted ²
Glasgow	26	23	22
Harefield	25	21	19
Newcastle	5	5	5
Papworth	60	42	40
Total	116	91	86
¹ Includes cases where a DCD Heart Supplementary form has not been returned but notes reported on the Retrieval Team Information form suggest that DCD heart retrieval was intended.			
² Transplanted at any UK transplant centre			

Organ utilisation rates for the 91 proceeding DCD heart donors between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 are shown in **Table 7** compared to the general DCD donor population donating at least one organ. Transplantation rates for other organs are higher in the DCD heart population when comparing to the general DCD population.

Table 7 Abdominal and lung offer outcomes from 91 DCD heart donors, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026				
Outcome	Lungs¹	Kidney¹	Liver	Pancreas
Offered	79	86	85	84
Accepted	60	84	76	59
Retrieved	41	82	72	53
Transplanted	35	82	57	29
% Transplanted of offered	44%	95%	67%	35%
% Transplanted of retrieved	85%	100%	79%	55%
National DCD organ % transplanted of offered*	22%	89%	48%	17%
National DCD organ % transplanted of retrieved*	82%	90%	67%	38%
¹ at least one				
*Based on all UK proceeding DCD donors between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 where the heart was not retrieved				

APPENDIX



Appendix 1 Retrieval data missing form rates, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026					
Attending retrieval team	Number of forms due	Retrieval team forms missing		SNOD forms missing	
		N	%	N	%
Abdominal					
Birmingham	181	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cambridge	234	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cardiff	65	0	0.0	1	1.5
Edinburgh	146	0	0.0	0	0.0
King's College	233	0	0.0	0	0.0
Leeds	154	0	0.0	0	0.0
Manchester	144	0	0.0	0	0.0
Newcastle	128	0	0.0	0	0.0
Oxford	164	0	0.0	1	0.6
Royal Free	174	0	0.0	1	0.6
Cardiothoracic					
Birmingham	108	0	0.0	0	0.0
Glasgow	74	0	0.0	0	0.0
Harefield	118	0	0.0	0	0.0
Manchester	97	0	0.0	1	1.0
Newcastle	67	1	1.5	0	0.0
Papworth	114	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	2201	1	0.0	4	0.2

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