NHSBT BOARD
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2026

Organ Donation and Transplantation Recovery Workshop, 27 November

- The Scottish Government is convening an Organ Donation and Transplantation Recovery Workshop on 27 November, bringing together Scottish Government, NHSBT clinical and operational colleagues and other key Scottish stakeholders. The workshop will consider current Scottish performance, the wider UK recovery context and areas where there may be particular Scotland-specific challenges or opportunities.

- The intention is to identify a focused set of priorities and practical Scotland-specific actions, rather than duplicate NHSBT's UK-wide recovery activity.

Donation and Transplantation in Scotland: Progress, Priorities and Future Direction Report (2027-28)

- The Scottish Government has developed a new Donation and Transplantation in Scotland: Progress, Priorities and Future Direction Report (2027-28), which will be taken to the Scottish Donation and Transplant Group (SDTG) on 10 December. The report marks the conclusion of the Donation and Transplantation Plan for Scotland 2021–26 (“the Plan”), records progress against its recommendations and sets out the priorities and actions proposed for 2027–28.

- Of the 21 recommendations in the Plan, 19 had been completed by 1 December 2026, with two remaining areas of work relating to eye retrieval services and the statutory evaluation of Scotland's opt-out system.

- Rather than moving immediately to another standalone multi-year Scottish plan, the proposed approach for 2027–28 is to focus on delivery and measurable improvement, including supporting implementation of the UK-wide Implementation Steering Group for Organ Utilisation (ISOU) and the Organ Donation Joint Working Group (ODWJG) recommendations while addressing Scotland-specific priorities. Stakeholder views will inform whether a further national Scottish plan is required from 2028–29 onwards.