

ORGAN DONATION – UPDATE FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

After a very good year for donor numbers in 2016-17, this year has been slower; however we hope that the positive culture in favour of organ donation will continue and that we will see an increase in the coming months.

The 2017 marketing campaign launched at the beginning of August and ran on TV, Digital, Cinema and Field over a 6 week period. A number of new initiatives such as an enormous advert at the side of the M8 (Glasgow to Edinburgh) and a cinema stunt involving “naked” cinema goers proved very successful at raising awareness of organ donation.



NHSBT staff, working in conjunction with the Order of St John in Scotland hosted the annual donor recognition ceremony at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh – home to the national organ donor memorial. As ever the event was very moving and much appreciated by the donor families.

Building on NHSBT’s work on increasing organ utilisation and the recommendations in ‘Taking Organ Utilisation to 2020’, the Scottish Government hosted two seminars (abdominal and cardiothoracic) which focused on how we can improve organ utilisation in Scotland. The workshops were well attended and the outputs will be presented to the October meeting of the Scottish Donation and Transplant Group.

Following the consultation on measures to increase numbers of successful organ and tissue donations, which received over 800 responses, the Scottish Government is

currently working with stakeholders to develop its legislation for a soft opt out system of organ donation.

The Scottish project which aims to build on neonatal and paediatric organ and tissue donation is progressing and the draft guidance prepared for staff in neonatal and paediatric intensive care units in particular is currently being road-tested by a number of units. This project is also taking forward revisions to the agreement between the Scottish Donation and Transplant Group and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

The Living Kidney Donation project continues and over 800 patients who are on the active or suspended waiting list will receive a suite of information (including a DVD) setting out the options available to them. The new Living Donation section of our website, including a post-code search facility directing enquirers to their local specialist unit, has gone live and we have seen a steep increase in the number of enquiries and health forms returned. Following the success of the Living Kidney Donation seminar in December 2016, a further event is planned for December 2017 bringing together nephrologists, low-clearance nurses, transplant co-ordinators and surgeons.

The Scottish Government
September 2017