

May 2026

Dear all,

I would like to acknowledge the huge efforts of all our colleagues involved in the donation to transplantation pathway. Please accept our recognition and thanks for the efforts of your staff. Despite these efforts the number of donors and transplants in the UK has still not returned to pre-pandemic levels. A DHSC (with devolved nation support) and NHSBT joint working group report was published in January which called for a **Bolder and Braver** approach. We look forward to working with you to achieve this ambition.

This letter explains how your Trust contributed to the UK's deceased donation programme.

Organ and tissue donation and transplantation activity - 2025/26

From 20 consented donors, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust facilitated 18 actual solid organ donors resulting in 38 patients receiving a transplant during the time period. Additionally, 12 corneas were received by NHSBT Eye Banks from your Trust.

Quality of care in organ donation - 2025/26

When compared with national data, during the time period your Trust was:

- In line with the national average for the referral of potential organ donors
- Exceptional for Specialist Nurse presence when approaching families to discuss organ donation
- Your Trust referred 118 patients to NHSBT's Organ Donation Services Team; 63 met the referral criteria and were included in the UK Potential Donor Audit. There were a further 4 audited patients that were not referred.
- A Specialist Nurse was present for 30 organ donation discussions with families of eligible donors. There were no occasions when a Specialist Nurse was absent for the donation discussion.
- In East of England, 45% of the population have registered an NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) opt in decision. This compares to 43% of the population nationally.

Up to date Trust metrics are always available via our Power BI reports found here:

<https://www.odt.nhs.uk/statistics-and-reports/potential-donor-audit-report/>.

Our ask

- Ensure your Trust supports your Organ Donation Committee and Clinical Lead for Organ Donation in promoting best practice as they seek to minimise missed donation opportunities.
- Discuss activity and quality data at the Board with support from your Organ Donation Committee Chair.
- Recognise any successes your Trust has had in facilitating donation or transplantation, especially during the ongoing NHS pressures.
- An opt-in registration on the NHS Organ Donor Register results in the highest rates of consent. Last year, we provided your Trust with a unique QR code and personalised web link directing users to the official NHS Organ Donor Register. Please incorporate these sign-up links into your digital communications, including staff emails, patient newsletters, websites and social media channels. If the link has been misplaced, your Organ Donation Committee holds a copy. Embedding these direct links enables people in your local community to register quickly and demonstrate their support for organ and tissue donation. This new initiative in 2025 has resulted in 61 people registering a decision using your QR code.

Why it matters

In 2025/26, 360 people benefited from a solid organ transplant in the East of England. However sadly, 26 people died on the transplant waiting list during this time.

Thank you once again for your vital ongoing support for donation and transplantation.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Clarkson
Director of Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation
NHS Blood and Transplant