



Press release from the NKF (National Kidney Federation)

Embargoed until 00.01am on Tuesday 11 July 2017

One step forward, but one step backwards - with organ donation in the UK:

The latest figures on organ donation in the UK published today, Tuesday 11th July show that progress has been patchy. The figures show a record number of organ donations after death in the year 2016/17 but a continued drop in the number of living donations.

David Marshall, Chairman of the National Kidney Federation (NKF), said:

“We are very pleased with the number of donations after death and thank everyone involved in achieving this result. However, we are very concerned about the continued reduction in living donation and have asked the All Party Parliamentary Kidney Group in the House of Commons to hold a special Summit to consider this matter in November – they have agreed to do this. NHSBT and the four UK governments need to review our approach to living donation if we are to achieve the target set for 2020. In addition, we welcome the decision of the Scottish Government to begin legislation to introduce soft opt out arrangements and urge the Prime Minister to do the same in England”

ENDS

Notes:

1. The NKF has published a discussion paper called “Challenges facing Living –Donor Kidney Transplantation in the UK “recently and is requesting responses by the end of August 2017. The paper is available at

<http://www.kidney.org.uk/home/news-2/living-donor-discussion-paper-nkf-seeks-your-views/>

2. Out of the five strategic objective set in the Organ Transplantation 2020 Strategy by NHSBT and the four UK governments, three are shown as “red”, one “amber” and one “green” by NHSBT. Details are available at

<http://www.odt.nhs.uk/statistics-and-reports/odt-performance-report/>

In particular, the progress in improving “consent rates” is very small and it seems unlikely that the target of 80% consent rate by 2020 will be achieved.

3. For media queries, please contact: -

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