



Belfast Health and
Social Care Trust

caring supporting improving together

Chief Executive
Dr Cathy Jack

Chairman
Mr Peter McNaney, CBE

1 December 2021

Mr Kevin McBride
Clerk, Committee for Health
Room 410 Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Via Email to Brendan.Miskelly@niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Mr McBride

Further to your letter of 16 November 2021 please find attached the Belfast Trust's response to the issue of increased workforce and other resources required if the Organ and Tissue Donation Bill is successful.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

Dr Cathy Jack
Chief Executive

Cc Mrs Janet Johnston, Interim Director of Acute Services/Critical Care
Mrs Caroline Leonard, Director of Cancer & Specialist Services

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BEFLFAST TRUST RESPONSE TO ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION (DEEMED CONSENT) BILL

There is a requirement to ensure the renal transplant infrastructure keeps pace with the anticipated increase in donation, including leadership, education as well as workforce numbers. Work has already commenced through supporting the pilot of Clinical Leads for Utilisation in all transplant units, Mr Tim Brown has taken up this role in BHSCT. However, there is acknowledgment workforce and specialist skills are already stretched following COVID pressures, there is ongoing collaboration with NHS Blood and Transplant regarding the Organ Utilisation Programme which will help to identify potential gaps in workforce, education, leadership and culture.

In addition a group (the Organ Utilisation Group) has been set up by the DHSC in Westminster, with Observer status from NI representatives, with the remit to improve utilisation in every case where this is possible and safe. Part of the work of this group will be to look at workforce challenges and to ensure there is full support at Trust level, to maximise the utilisation of donated organs offered for waiting patients, including those in NI.

It is anticipated the introduction of the Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent Bill) will result in an increase in organ donation however, it is not yet clear what this additional demand will be. The Trust has assessed the current ability to respond 24/7 to an increase in demand.

There is already in place an out of hours on site emergency theatre service in BCH which responds to all renal transplants, resuscitation and on occasion to other emergency surgical cases.

As a first step, and to ensure there will always be out of hour's theatre access to support increased demand for transplant services 24/7, the Trust is proposing an on call nursing service for the operating department. An on call team would be able to respond in circumstances where nurses on duty are already engaged in emergency surgery. This would reduce the likelihood of delays in particular for renal transplantation and cold ischaemic times of kidneys. This will require additional revenue of £60,000 to implement.

The Trust will work with the Organ Utilisation Group, the Trust's Clinical Lead for Utilisation and local commissioning colleagues to develop a service improvement plan and to identify the resources required to enhance the service fully once the requirement for additional resources is clear.