

22.09.2026

Communications Department

Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk
www.twitter.com/RUHBath

Media Release

Confirm your decision to save lives this Organ Donation Week

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust is urging people to register their decision to be an organ donor after new figures showed that between April 2021 and March 2026 more than 700 potential donations did not go ahead because families did not know for certain what their loved one would have wanted. This resulted in around 2,127 missed opportunities for transplant.

The data, released by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to mark Organ Donation Week (Monday 21 – Sunday 27 September), also shows that the UK transplant waiting list has risen to a record level, with more than 8,700 people waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

Nine people die every week waiting for a transplant, highlighting the urgent need to increase organ donation and transplantation rates.

Alison Ryan, Chair of the RUH Organ & Tissue Donation Committee, said: “Confirming your decision to donate on the NHS Organ Donor Register makes it clear to your family that you want to be an organ donor, leaving them certain of your decision at what is a difficult and emotional time.

“My late husband was given an additional 18 years of life because of the generosity of an organ donation so I know first-hand the real difference it makes and the deep feelings of gratitude and respect for the donor which remains with the recipients’ families forever.

“So please, if you’ve yet to register your decision, do it today. It takes just two minutes on the NHS Organ Donation website and by doing so you could potentially save up to nine lives.”

In addition to its work with organ donation, the RUH works in partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant, Tissue and Eye Services to make conversations about tissue donation a recognised part of end-of-life care. This means families have the opportunity to consider tissue donation if

they wish. One tissue donor can potentially help up to 50 individuals with the gifts of healing, sight and relief of pain.

Anthony Clarkson, Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "There is a simple action the public can take to help save lives. Please sign the NHS Organ Donor Register. Most of us would accept an organ if we needed one but opportunities to save lives are being lost because families didn't know what their loved ones wanted. Leave them certain."

Since its creation in 1994, thousands of lives have been saved thanks to people agreeing to donate their organs after death by confirming their decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

The law around organ donation now assumes that unless you have 'opted out' you will be considered for organ donation after your death. However, families are still asked for their consent and they are more likely to give it if you have formally 'opted in' by joining the register.

To find out more and confirm your decision, visit the NHS Organ Donor Register at www.organdonation.nhs.uk, or call 0300 123 23 23. Users of the NHS app, can also use this to record, check or amend their details or decision.

Ends

Notes to Editor:

About the RUH

At the RUH we're proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

Our new Dyson Cancer Centre brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof to provide a cancer services hub for over 500,000 people in the South West. The centre includes the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

A key feature of the new centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub. The three-storey hub provides a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It also includes comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight.



Royal United Hospitals Bath

NHS Foundation Trust

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk