

## Human Tissue Authority

### Covid-19

- In March 2020, the HTA suspended routine site visit inspections in order to protect both the safety of HTA staff but also those at licensed establishments. This also helped reduce the regulatory burden on establishments coping with the pandemic. The anticipated lifting of restrictions in stages will enable the HTA to start planning for a resumption of routine site visits.
- Site visits remain a very valuable regulatory tool that we will continue to use proportionately in combination with Virtual Regulatory Assessments. This approach, combining virtual and routine site visits, will enable the HTA to maintain consistency whilst introducing increased flexibility to adapt to the changing external environment and the different risks.
- Where we do carry out site visits, our actions will be driven by data and information we hold on each establishment, targeting our regulatory interventions where they are most needed.

### Living Donation

- Following our training event in October 2020, we successfully accredited an additional Scotland-based Independent Assessor. This brings the total number of Independent Assessors trained to conduct Independent Assessment interviews for living organ donations taking place in Scotland to 17.
- We have seen a gradual increase in the levels of applications for living donations from across the UK, however, as expected, the number of applications continues to be low compared to pre-Covid. We anticipate an increase in cases after the matching run of the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme in April.
- We are currently in the process of updating our [guidance](#) for transplant teams and Independent Assessors in Scotland. The updated version will be available on our website later this year.

## Scottish Donation and Transplant Group – 23 March 2021

### UK Transition

- Now that the UK has exited the EU single market and customs union, we are focused on working with establishments to ensure they are aware of the regulatory changes within the UK.
- As part of this work [The HTA's Quality and Safety of Organs Intended for Transplantation: A documentary framework](#) has been updated to reflect the requirements brought into effect by the regulatory changes.
- [UK transition guidance](#) has been issued to support establishments with any questions they may have about the regulatory changes within the UK.

### Office move

- The HTA's new address is now: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ.