

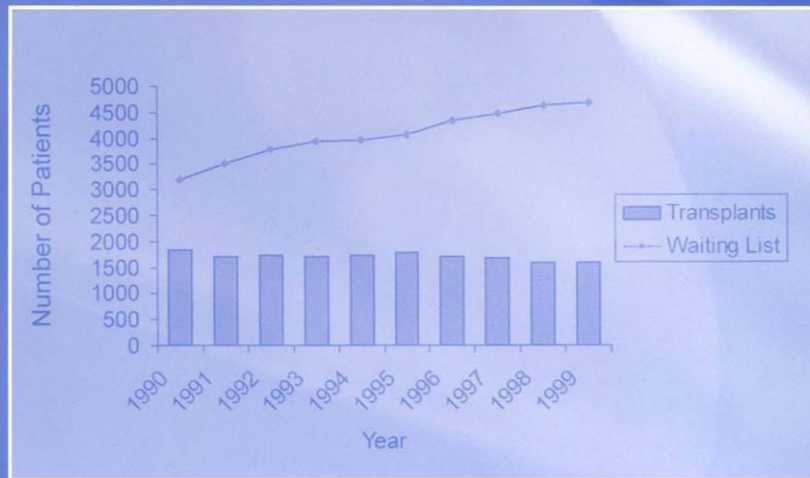
# Opt-out for organ donation – changing hearts and minds

**BMA**



# Organ Donation in the 21st Century

Time for a consolidated approach



## BMA support for opt-out

- 1999 – Annual Representatives Meeting (ARM) pledges support for a shift to an opt-out system
- June 2000 – BMA publishes major report calling for a review of the organ donation system and new legislation
- The BMA forms the Transplant Partnership a coalition of 18 professional and patient groups to campaign for change

**Have a heart on  
Valentines Day**



Sign one more card  
this Christmas...



*So life can go on.*

# Raising awareness about the problems

- 2001 – Valentines campaign asking Parliamentarians to ‘have a heart’ and support improvements to the organ donation system.
- 2001 – Christmas campaign asking the public to ‘sign one more card’ and sign up to the organ donor register

# Campaigning across the UK

- Maintaining a presence in the media
- Commissioning opinion polls
- Speaking in debates and at conferences
- Regular meetings with civil servants and policy makers
- Meeting with other organisations
- Meeting with individual Parliamentarians
- Giving evidence to Parliamentary committees; and
- Organising Parliamentary events



## Building on Progress:

Where next for organ donation policy in the UK?



# Supporting infrastructure and legislative changes

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- 2008 – Organ Donation Taskforce recommends changes to the infrastructure to promote a 50% increase in donors - BMA welcomes these changes.
- 2008 – ARM confirms its support for opt-out and calls for campaigning to continue but Taskforce rejects opt-out.
- 2012 – Another major report, supporting the improvements that have been made but renewing the case for opt-out

# Success in Wales

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- 2013 – Wales leads the way by passing Human Transplantation (Wales) Act – opt-out introduced December 2015



# Success in England

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- 2019 – Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019 passed – opt-out introduced May 2020



# Success in Scotland

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- 2019 – Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Act passed – opt-out introduced March 2021





# Success in Northern Ireland

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- 2022 – Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) (Northern Ireland) Act passed – opt-out introduced June 2023.

