



Blood and Transplant

Oak House
Reeds Crescent
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD24 4QN

Tel: 01923 366804

Fax: 01923 366801

www.nhsbt.nhs.uk

Ms Nanette Milne OBE MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

7 August 2013

Dear Ms Milne

Thank you for your letter dated 11 July 2013 concerning how NHS Blood and Transplant will proceed in the event of Scotland voting for independence.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is the organ donation organisation for the UK and is responsible for matching and allocating donated organs, and running the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR). Its remit also includes the provision of a reliable, efficient supply of blood in England and North Wales. NHSBT can only respond on behalf of England and North Wales, in other areas of the UK blood collection, testing and processing is managed by the Scottish, Welsh and Irish blood services.

NHSBT has in place a reciprocal agreement with the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) and the other UK Blood Services to provide mutual assistance in the event of a blood shortage or unplanned event that affects their ability to supply hospitals. NHSBT would expect this reciprocal agreement to continue if Scotland does agree to independence as the arrangement offers additional security to all four blood services.

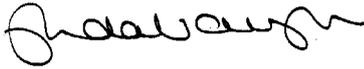
Organ donation and transplant activity is co-ordinated on a UK-wide basis by NHSBT as it is in the best interest for all patients to ensure that all donated organs are matched to the most suitable recipients. NHSBT receives funding from the Scottish Government and is accountable to Scottish Ministers for activity undertaken in Scotland. Therefore, NHSBT will work within whatever legislative framework is introduced by Scotland or any of the four health administrations in the UK.

NHSBT has representation on the Scottish Transplant Group and, in addition to this, senior members of NHSBT have regular discussions with Scottish Government officials. From these discussions I can confirm that NHSBT and Scottish Government do not believe that there would be any significant change to the relationship or the management of organ donation and transplantation in the event of independence.

In response to your question regarding the number of Scottish residents who received transplants in England or Scotland, please see the table attached.

I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns, however please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynda Hamlyn', written in a cursive style.

Lynda Hamlyn
Chief Executive