

No. 560/2019

26 September 2019

Our Ref: C1/19

To: All Branches

Dear Colleagues,

World Heart Day – 29 September 2019

This Sunday, 29th September is World Heart Day and NHS Blood and Transplant will be raising awareness of the number of people on the heart transplant waiting list with their national press release (attached).

Across the UK, over 300 patients are waiting for a heart transplant and they are relying on an organ donor to save their life. NHS Blood and Transplant want to encourage families to talk about organ donation.

On World Heart Day itself, NHS Blood and Transplant will be highlighting the need for more paediatric donors, to highlight that it is particularly difficult to find a donor for children and babies in need of a heart. The size of the heart is important, meaning a donor of a similar size is needed. Hearts and lungs in particular need to be matched by size because of the limited space inside the chest, and also to ensure the two organs have comparable strength and do not overwhelm or under power each other.

These heart patients are relying on a person or family to say 'yes' to organ donation in order to save their life. NHS Blood and Transplant hope that by raising awareness families will talk about organ donation and share their decision to help save more lives.

NHS Blood and Transplant would really appreciate your support by sharing their social media posts and press items **between now and Sunday 29 September** using the hashtags #WorldHeartDay and #PassItOn.

Yours sincerely



Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer