



## Department of Health

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From Jane Ellison MP  
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16 APR 2014

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March to Norman Lamb on behalf of a number of your constituents about the current system of lung transplant allocation.

The Department is aware of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust's report, *Hope for more: Improving access to lung transplantation and care for people with cystic fibrosis*. NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is the organ donation organisation for the UK and it continues to consider practical steps that could be taken within the current allocation system to improve outcomes for patients. A panel of experts is currently looking at improving the allocation of donated lungs to make sure the system is efficient and equitable for patients across the UK. The panel will make its recommendations to NHSBT as soon as possible.

Raising awareness of organ donation is a priority and I would like to reassure you and your constituents that work continues at national, regional and local levels to support the excellent work of the NHS in identifying and referring potential organ donors. Significant resources have been made available, largely through NHSBT, to increase the number of specialist healthcare professionals and enable them to work towards increasing rates of donation locally. This has resulted in donor rates increasing by over 50.3 per cent since 2008, and rates continue to rise.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards,

JANE ELLISON