Opt-out for organ donation – changing hearts and minds
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
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
Supporting infrastructure and legislative changes

- 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

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

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

• 2019 – Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Act passed – opt-out introduced March 2021
Success in Northern Ireland