Glossary of Terms

**National Living Donor Kidney Sharing Schemes**
A scheme that enables kidneys from living donors that are donated from non-directed altruistic donors and through the paired/pooled scheme to be used throughout the UK for the benefit of recipients waiting for a transplant.

**Human Tissue Act**
The Human Tissue Act 2004 for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 provide the legal framework for organ and tissue donation in the UK. The rules set out by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) specify certain requirements that must be met before donation from a living donor can take place. All living donor transplant operations must be approved by the HTA following independent assessment.

**HTA**
Human Tissue Authority: a regulatory body set up to implement the requirements of the Human Tissue Act (2004).

**IA**
Independent Assessor: A trained and accredited person who is independent of the transplant team, interviews donors and recipients of living organ transplantation in the UK and submits a report to the HTA.

**NHSBT**
NHS Blood and Transplant – a special health authority of the NHS which is responsible for overseeing the supply of blood, organs and tissues. Within NHSBT the Organ Donation and Transplantation (ODT) Directorate is responsible for ensuring that donated organs and tissues are matched to patients who need a transplant and are used in the fairest way.

**National transplant list**
A UK-wide list of patients awaiting a kidney from a deceased donor.

**Deceased donor**
A person who donates their organs and tissues for transplantation after their death.

**Living donor kidney transplantation**
Kidney transplantation between someone who donates a kidney during their lifetime (living donor) to a recipient who needs a kidney transplant.
Incompatible
Where the recipient of a kidney transplant has antibodies in his/her blood to the blood group of his/her possible donor. These antibodies may be against the blood group or the HLA type of the donor and mean that the donor cannot give the recipient a kidney in a direct, straightforward donation. This is often referred to as mismatched.

Compatible
This is where the recipient does not have antibodies to the blood group or HLA type of the donor and a straightforward transplant between them would be possible.

HLA type
This refers to a group of antigens known as Human Lymphocyte Antigens (HLA) that make up the individual HLA-type of every person. This is often referred to as tissue-type. The HLA-type helps to identify suitable donors for recipients.

Antibodies
In this situation they refer to antibodies that the recipient has against the donor's blood group or HLA type. Blood group antibodies are in the blood from birth but HLA type antibodies are made if the recipient has been in contact with another person's antigens through pregnancy (for women), blood transfusion or a previous organ transplant.

Donor-recipient pair
A donor and recipient who are registered together into the paired/pooled scheme.

Matching run
Kidney matching run carried out by NHSBT to identify all paired/pooled exchanges and altruistic donor chains.

Exchange
Matched donor recipient pairs between whom kidneys are swapped.