

Proposed Organ and Tissue Donation (Scotland) Bill

#72



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Q1: The overarching purpose of my proposal is to move from the current opt-in system to a soft opt-out system of organ donation. Do you support this move? Please indicate "yes/no/undecided" and explain the reasons for your response.

Yes,

Please give your reasons for your response:
I have spoken to many friends and family about my wish to donate when I die, and many have said they would yet haven't registered. Many "haven't got round to it" whereas my husband is against donation, and said he would opt out and can't understand why people don't "opt in" as there is no middle ground- I believe many organs would be saved sooner without the search to find a person wishes. The system works in France- why not here? It's a fantastic idea and potentially could save many more lives

Q2: How essential is it to change the law (from an opt-in to a soft opt-out system) in order to achieve the intended benefits (increased transplant rates, reduced waiting lists)? Are there other (non-legislative) measures that could achieve similar outcomes without the need for legislation?

There have been initiatives, eg "respect my dying wish" and this spurred on many to discuss and talk about donation and many to register but I believe soft opt out would be far more beneficial

Q3: I believe the role of the family should be limited to being consulted on whether they are aware of any (unregistered) objection by the deceased rather than asking for their consent. Do you agree? Please indicate "yes/no/undecided" and explain the reasons for your response.

Yes,

Please give reasons for your response:
My wish -as all my loved ones know- is that I wish to donate any tissue or organ whatsoever that may benefit the life of someone living once I have gone, and I do not want my family to object to this and my fear is that my husband will.

Q4: Do you think an individual should be able to appoint a proxy to make the final decision regarding transplantation on their behalf? Please indicate "yes/no/undecided" and explain the reasons for your response.

Yes,

Please give reasons for your response:
If people believe their loved ones should have the opportunity to make that decision for that person comfort / peace of mind when they pass then this is a good idea. Gives family / nominated proxy an input if the person wishes this to be considered

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Q5: My proposal is that only adults should be automatically opted-in to be a donor. Younger persons would have to register to be a donor, by themselves or with parental consent as they currently do. This approach is I believe the best way to safeguard children and young people. Do you agree? Please indicate "yes/no/undecided" and explain the reasons for your response.

Undecided,

Please give reasons for your response:
I believe that children should also have their organs considered, but I believe that a parent should have the right to make the final say. I would happily allow my 4 children organs to save another child/person, but I understand this is an incredibly difficult decision to make, and very traumatic for many, and I believe parents should have the final day

Q6: Do you agree the age limit for an adult should be set at 16 years old? Please indicate "yes/no/undecided" and explain the reasons for your response.

Yes,

If you answered no, what would you consider a more appropriate age?
I believe that 16 is acceptable adult age. I also believe that if someone has capacity and understands the implications of donation before they die and can express this, that they should be allowed to decide this when younger

Q7: Do you agree the soft opt-out system should apply to people who have been resident in Scotland for a minimum period of 1 year prior to their death? Please indicate "yes/no/undecided" and explain the reasons for your response.

Yes,

Please give reasons for your response:
Yes, and all living in this country should make that decision to opt-out if this is what they desire. If they do not opt out and have been here a year, then I believe that implies they are happy to donate

Q8: If you answered no to the above how long, if any, should this period of residency last before they become subject to the soft opt-out system? Would this residency need to be for a continuous period?

Not applicable as I answered yes.

Q9: Do you think 6 months is a long enough period to run a campaign prior to change over?

Yes, as it will no doubt be a highly discussed issue. And vital that it isn't dragged out- lives can be saved and waiting lists reduced with this change

Q10: What is your assessment of the likely financial implications (if any) of the proposed Bill to you or your organisation? What (if any) other significant financial implications are likely to arise?

I would imagine that imposing the bill would in the long term save money- as it would be hoped that there is not the maintenance of a large changing donor register, a smaller register of those opting out. Less cards to carry to state can donate.
Less time in ICU to preserve a body for organ retrieval in the interim whilst discussions are made with families

Q11: Is the proposed Bill likely to have any substantial positive or negative implications for equality? If it is likely to have a substantial negative implication, how might this be minimised or avoided?

I believe that if people have the right and opportunity to opt out, this is a decision that must be respected. Thereby allowing equality and fairness to all- respecting each persons autonomy and individual belief system

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Q12: Do you have any other comments on or suggestions relevant to the proposal?

This is a fantastic proposal, and I hope it will be passed. I am a nurse, and I work in critical care and have looked after patients awaiting or having received transplants and seen the difference made to those lives. I have sadly seen people pass when no organs are available- and I wonder how often people have not registered as a donor as they "didn't get around to it," before they passed.

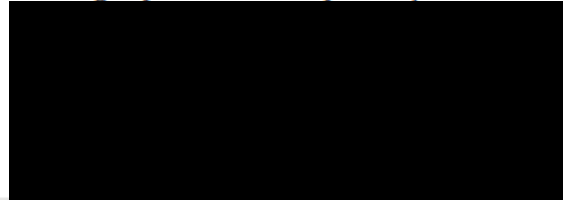
My personal belief is that my organs can go to someone else to preserve a life, or I am choosing to waste those organs and denying someone else the opportunity to live on with my organs. Although I believe either decision is a person right, I believe that opt out would be better for all in Scotland

PAGE 3: Contact Details

Q13: If you wish your response, or any part of it, to be treated as anonymous or confidential, please check the appropriate box and state the reason for this. If not, then please go to question 14. If I accept the reasons, I will publish it as "anonymous response" or only publish the non-confidential parts of the response. If I do not accept the reasons, I will let you know and give you the option of withdrawing it or submitting it on the normal attributable basis.

Anonymous,

Please give your reasons for your response:



Q14: Thank you for completing this survey. Please provide your name and contact details below.

Name

Company

Address

Address 2

City/Town

State/Province

ZIP/Postal Code

Country

Email Address

