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PAGE 2: Proposed Organ and Tissue Donation (Scotland) Bill Consultation

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 think this is the only way forward to saving lives. I was a member of the Minister's Organ Donation Transplant Group set up originally by Malcolm Chisholm and I wrote the Education pack for schools in this subject. From all the research I did for this and from my experience as an organ donor I know that a soft opt out system would be better and relieves the pressure of decision making for families at a very difficult time.

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?

I think this is the only way.

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:
yes because that respects the wishes of the individual to donate.

Q4: Do you think an individual should be able to appoint a proxy to the 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:
yes as this respects the right of the individual to choose when there may be no close relative or there are problems with family.

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.

Yes,

Please give reasons for your response:
this plan would reassure the public and protect the young.

Proposed Organ and Tissue Donation (Scotland) Bill

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?
16 year olds can marry, vote (in Scotland) etc I know from teaching young people that they are well able to understand the issues around transplantation /donation and in my view often better than adults. They have a deep set of values and are well disposed to the ethical/moral decision making process.

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: this makes sense.

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?

Respondent skipped this question

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

yes, its not the time but the quality of learning and information provided. Excellent and well informed communication is essential

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?

n/a

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?

the equality is situated in this context, if you would be prepared to receive and organ for yourself or your family then it is morally incumbent upon you to also be prepared to give an organ

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

no

PAGE 3: Contact Details

Q13: If you wish your response, or any part of it, to be treated as anonymous and/or confidential, please check the appropriate box. If not, then please go to question 14.

Respondent skipped this question

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

Respondent skipped this question