

Proposed Organ and Tissue Donation (Scotland) Bill

#143



COMPLETE

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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.

No,

Please give your reasons for your response:
I am not sure what additional benefit there will be that could not be achieved within current system if greater engagement was sought. My concern is that modern society is apathetic and disengaged and that I think that donation is a positive individual decision to be taken rather than something to be assumed. I do not feel that an opt out system will make conversations with families any easier.

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 don't feel that there is any need to change the law. The proposed change does not prevent family coming forth after donation to dispute the decision. The current system could be optimised to increase chances to register for organ donation. Advertising the benefits of the current system in a positive manner should allow people to make a positive choice to log on to the website and register.

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:
Families should not be in a position to give "consent" for a family member to donate organs any more than they should decide if that individual were to have any other operation while living. It is an individual's decision to donate and I feel that this positive decision to do so is a good thing.

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.

No,

Please give reasons for your response:
It is an individual decision and, much like a living will/DNACPR, should be made by a competent patient at a time of their choosing. I strongly believe that derogating this responsibility to a proxy is not a positive step.

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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.

No,

Please give reasons for your response:
I believe that everyone should have to register, irrespective of age.

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

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.

No,

Please give reasons for your response:
I disagree with the system proposed and therefore any timeline attached to the decision making process is entirely arbitrary.

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?

See above.

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

In the event of a change being voted for then I would suggest a 12 month period in order to

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 not consider any financial implications of the bill to be relevant as it is primarily an ethical question about how one should approach organ donation rather than an economic argument.

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 think it will potentially have a negative impact on equality in that those who are from more deprived areas and are traditionally more disengaged from these decisions will not realise they have to consider the implications of the bill and will end up with their consent being assumed.

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.

Anonymous

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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

