

Dear Ms McTaggart MSP,

I am writing in response to your kind invitation to contribute to your consultation on the proposed Organ and Tissue Donation (Scotland) Bill.

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and advancement in surgical and dental practice, through its interest in education, training and examinations, its liaison with external medical bodies and representation of the modern surgical and dental workforce.

Although we try and represent our members' views in policy discussions as far as possible, we believe that the decisions involved in designing an opt-out system for organ donation are not related to standards of surgery and, as such, not ones on which the College would take a view.

Whilst the choice to donate organs is a personal decision, the College does support overall moves that encourage more people to consider assisting those in need of transplants. In particular, we support the creation of more Specialist Nurses in Organ Donation (SN-ODs) and Clinical Leads in Organ Donation (CLODs) to assist families with the tough decisions they are faced with. We also would like to see registered donors being encouraged to speak to their families about their wishes, so there are fewer surprises and the chances of them refusing to authorise donation are reduced.

Should your Bill progress, we would be delighted to become involved in discussions around the implementation of any system introduced in order to ensure that any surgical detail is in the best interest of the patient.

Yours,

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