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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 people who would be willing to donate just don't get round to getting themselves on a donor list. I think if someone was strongly against being on a list they would go to the trouble of opting out. Most people are pro organ donation and this would ensure that we have many more people on the donors list and increase the transplant rates, saving many more lives. I also think that as long as it is well publicised and people know about it, there shouldn't be any problems.

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 it's the most effective way to get as many people on the donor list as possible. Another possible option could be if doctor's surgeries and banks and places where people go regularly were to ask every patient and customer to sign a donor form. Perhaps asking large businesses to get involved as it would raise their profiles and be good publicity for them. However this could never achieve the figures that an opt out system could.

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.

No,

Please give reasons for your response:
I am all for the opt out system but I think if a family strongly objects to an organ donation for any reason, even if the deceased person has signed a donor form, the families wishes should be respected. I think it's a violation to go against a family's wishes. However, a doctor should try to persuade the family but if they are still against it then their wishes should be respected.

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:
I think it's a good idea. A proxy is someone you trust to make decisions on your behalf, therefore it is assumed that it's something the individual has discussed with a proxy and it's assumed that the proxy would carry out the individual's wishes.

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:
I believe that children under 16 are not mature enough to make this kind of decision alone.

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:
Perhaps a year is too long.

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?

3 months is a suitable time period in my opinion.

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

Yes

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?

The government would have to fund the public information leaflets and T.V. advertisements etc. I have no idea what the cost for this would be but I think it's important enough that it has to be done so the cost is not a worry for me.

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?

Not sure.

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

Yes, I hope you succeed. Good luck.

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.

- Name
- Company
- Address
- Address 2
- City/Town
- State/Province
- ZIP/Postal Code
- Country
- Email Address

