

#317

**COMPLETE**

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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:
Yes. NHS Ayrshire and Arran supports this move provided there is a parallel process of public education about the benefits of organ donation. Also, it is important to recongise that all opt-out options have been exhausted. E.g. mandatory box on drining licence or council tax payments etc Some clinicians have expressed the view that there are a number of individuals who would be donors but have not made that view known before their death. The move to a soft opt-out system would therefore likely make a small but real difference to the number of organs donated in Scotland.

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?

the comparison of rates of donation is too simplistic. Two major factors affect this: one is the rate of deaths in suitable adults – it is higher if you have a lot of gun crime (eg USA) or RTAs (eg Spain). The UK has low rates of both, and so will have a lower rate of transplant than these countries. More effort could be oput into other non-opt-out options e.g all public service forms etc

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 at time of death will be consulted, not to make a decision about donation but about their understanding of the deceased person's wishes. In this way there is less pressure being placed on the family. Also currently families can and do often prevent transplantation. Families refuse consent in around 43% of cases where donation would be possible

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.

Undecided,

Please give reasons for your response:
There may be scope for confusion or a person change of view not being taken into account.

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:
think it is a good idea to safeguard children and young people but also good idea that younger persons would be able to register to be a donor by themselves or with parental consent as they currently do

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?
this fits with 16 also being the age in Scotland that an individual can consent to their own medical, surgical and dental treatment

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:
agree this gives residents with a minimum 1 year residency time to consider and understand the system in operation.

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?

(9) I think 6 months is a long enough period to run a campaign but would like to see continuous advertising in order to highlight this in order to provide a consistent message.

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?

having a successful transplant often allows patients to return to work and reduces the number of hospital visits.

As in the example included in the proposed bill – 'The average annual cost of dialysis for a patient with kidney failure is £30,800 but a successful kidney transplant operation costs £17,000 and £5,000 thereafter (2). The NHS BT predicts that for every year a kidney transplant remains functional, the NHS saves £24,100 per patient' (3)

Given just one donor can save or improve the lives of up to nine people, the potential number of transplants and associated savings can be far greater than the number of donors.

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 bill would have a positive impact on equality

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

None

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

