

1. 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. There are many reasons I don't support the opt out system. Here are a couple -

1 - It's a soft opt out system so in the end it will always come down to family consent and I feel a family is more likely to say yes if they know that said person had actively sign up instead of possibly forgetting to opt out. It makes the overall process less daunting for families when they know expressed wishes.

2. On a personal note I feel comfortable knowing that someone has taken the time to sign up and really want to help. If it was to go to opt out I would wonder if it really was what the person wanted.

2. 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 think it's essential to change the law to an opt out system there needs to be a true focus on Organ Donation from an early age so that it's seen as normal and the natural thing to do. I know in Scotland there is already a pack that teachers can use but it's not set into the curriculum that they have to, it's seen as morbid when it can be a very inspirational thing. It needs to become mandatory at primary school level and then again in High School (Primary school age could do an interactive art workshop etc and High School pupils should hear from those effected by transplant - donor families, co-ordinator and recipients. There is also getting the word out that when people sign up they need to let their family and friends know their wishes as again it makes it easier on the family at those final stages. More specialist nurses need to be brought in to take the families through the process and approach the subject at the correct time.

3. 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.

Personally and I know this may seem unethical to some but I feel that if someone is signed up as an Organ Donor then permission shouldn't be sought after from the family, as far as I'm aware it's law that doctors should go with what the donor wants regardless of the family and as you know no doctor is going to go against a grieving families wish. I feel that the family should be told said person was an organ donor and that should be it, no asking for permission etc. Of course if the wishes are unknown then the family must consent but if the person has no family then the removal of organs should go ahead.

4. 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 signing up should be enough.

5. 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 but I don't agree with opt out in any way shape of form.

6. 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. If you answered no, what would you consider a more appropriate age?

No. I think it should be 18

7. 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 I don't agree with the soft opt out system and people should sign up to be Organ Donors.

8. 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?

N/A

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

No. The general public aren't well informed on Organ Donation so more time would be needed for them to understand an opt out system

10. 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?

It would be costly in some respects as we would need to re-do all our leaflets, banners etc because they are focussed on signing people up. If it went UK wide we would need to reconsider our aims and motivations.

11. 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 negative. You are going to get a lot of people who feel like the choice is being forced upon them and I think they'll rebel by taking their name off the register just to make a point. Ways to avoid it would be to stick with the current system.

12. Do you have any other comments on or suggestions relevant to the proposal?

Changing to an opt out system would cost a lot of money that could be better spent educating our children who would in turn educate their parents. It's all about education and having the conversation. I year of opt out results for Wales won't show a dramatic change. Even countries like Spain who have a high sign up rate do not attribute it to having an opt out system but rather some of the measures they take to get more donors which could be seen as unethical here. Scotland are doing an amazing job at raising awareness and have the best literature out there but unless we invest in education nothing is going to change because opt in or out, if people don't know the facts about organ donation and we don't dispel the myths then it's something they will fear. If you grow up aware and not daunted by organ donation then it will become the normal thing to do.