

#402

**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: I'm more-or-less a yes - although I'm not sure that all the benefits anticipated by moving to an opt-out would actually be realised (see Spain). However, I'd support the system as we'd get a greater availability of organs for transplant - which means reduced waiting times for those of the transplant list. Therefore, not only will people be treated sooner (which is likely to increase the chances of the transplant being successful as they will be likely to be healthier), but also with more organs available, there is a probability that there will be a greater supply of strong, fitter organs for transplant.

**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?**

It's quite important as I'm sure plenty of alternative measures have been attempted and continue to be attempted. However, if the desired benefits could be achieved without legislation then this would be preferred. Continued education of people about what is involved in transplantation - who it benefits, why it is necessary.

**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: Taking into account the views of the family is important - for their own sake as much as to feel that consent has been fully given. But the subtle change in the question being asked leaves less doubt and requires less consideration by the family - which is good (for all). But it still provides room to express concern or objections.

**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:  
Your family are not always going to be the people who know you best. They may not be people you trust to see your final wishes respected. I have seen this happen from personal experience and it is painful for all. If an official proxy could be nominated it would leave no doubt for clinicians who to speak to.

**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

**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.**

Undecided,

If you answered no, what would you consider a more appropriate age?  
It's worth consulting with school children to maybe gauge better what they feel and therefore determine at what age being able to decide for yourself should be set. Although 16 (voting age..?) is probably right.

**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:  
It should just apply to all residents - registered in Scotland (by residence, GP surgery, electoral roll). I don't see why the 1 year buffer. Maybe make it 6 months.

**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?**

It should be shorter I feel - as short as possible.

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

don't know. depends how the campaign is.

**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?**

none for me personally.

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?

*Respondent skipped this question*

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

*Respondent skipped this question*

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

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

