

#405

**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 feel like this legislation could save lives.

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 the legislation would be the best way to do this and as far as I am aware it has had great effect in other countries, although I feel that in the interests of fairness there should be a huge awareness campaign if it goes through, just to make sure everybody knows where they stand.

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.

Undecided,

Please give reasons for your response:
Difficult as I feel that grieving families should not have to feel the extra grief of this if they don't want it; however they should also respect the wishes of the deceased.

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

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 agree this protects young people - if they want to opt in they can always do so, so it wouldn't stop them becoming donors, and at the same time they would be safeguarded and given time to mature and decide if they wish to be on the donor list.

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.

If you answered no, what would you consider a more appropriate age?
I feel that by 16, young people have enough self-awareness and autonomy to be capable of opting out should they feel the need. I do feel that when young people turn 16 they should be sent a letter explaining they are now on the donor list and need to opt out if this is what they want, just so everything is clear.

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:
Yes, 1 year gives people time to settle into the country and become aware of the legislation and I feel it's important that people have full awareness of the legislation in the interests of fairness, particularly as language barriers may be an issue on first arrival to Scotland. Again I feel that a letter should be sent out at this time.

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?

I feel 1 year is an appropriate time but only if efforts are made to ensure that new residents are made aware of the legislation and best efforts are made to ensure that language issues do not prevent them from understanding the legislation.

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

Yes, as long as it is a large campaign and efforts are made to reach those who may not have access to traditional awareness tools, such as elderly people or people living in poorer areas who may not have access to the internet. I feel letters should be sent out to everyone, and efforts made to think about translation services for those who may need it.

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?

potential legal battles from the family of the deceased, however I feel the risk of this is outweighed by the good this legislation would do.

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 only issue I can see is potentially religions who may not allow organ donation; however, as there is the option to opt-out, I don't believe this would be a huge issue.

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

I think the proposal is fantastic, just concerned that the campaign will reach maximum awareness levels for everyone in Scotland.

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

