

#411

**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: Whilst a good number of people do currently "opt in", there are many who perhaps don't register, who have may have no real objection to their organs being donated. An "opt out" systems ensures that donation targets can be more readily met, and still enables those with genuine objections to take their names off the list.

**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 believe that this would be the simplest way to reduce deaths for those waiting on transplants. It is essential that the law is changed to benefit those in need, whilst still giving everyone the option to opt out if they feel it's 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: If the deceased had any real objections, which they would apparently raise with the family, then any member of the family could help them to fill out the necessary forms to "opt out". Laziness is not an excuse to refuse organ donation which could save a life.

**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 would perhaps only be a few cases where this would be appropriate, and even then, I'm not sure how ethical it would be. If a person has a reduced mental capacity and may not fully understand the idea of organ donation, perhaps having someone act as a proxy would be beneficial, say, a parent or a carer. I feel this would be difficult to implement though, as you could argue that some with a reduced mental capacity may not be able to understand the concept at all, in which case, is it fair to have someone make that decision on their behalf? Not a question which can easily be answered.

**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 this is a good idea as it means that people under 16 can still register, but they are not automatically forced to when they are at an age where they might not understand fully what they are doing. It also makes sense for parents who disagree with organ donation for whatever reasons, as they would not have to worry about filling out the appropriate forms for their child to "opt out".

**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?  
I think that the legal age limit should be 16, because by that point children are beginning to truly mature and can hopefully make their own informed decision about whether or not they wish to donate.

**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:  
If there is no minimum period before death, then this would leave any visitors to the country eligible for donation, whether they intended to donate or not. A period of one year is more than long enough for anyone who is living in Scotland to "opt out" if they wish, and would hopefully lessen any legal disputes which may arise from friends/relatives who do not agree with donation.

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?**

Yes, as long as the campaign is run over every type of media (news papers/tv/adverts/Facebook/twitter etc). By using various types of media, there is a greater likelihood of informing people from every age group.

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?**

I cannot imagine that the financial implications would be large. Even if there were to be some kind of financial implication to myself, I would still support this bill whole heartedly. I believe that anything that can be done to save lives, should be.

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?**

I think that the bill is very fair and is in line with similar initiatives across Europe (such as Austria).

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

This bill is an extremely sensible idea and would hopefully be a cost effective way of ensuring more lives are saved every year and that people do not die waiting for transplants that may never come.

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

