



Theresa Fyffe
Director
RCN Scotland
42 South Oswald Road
Edinburgh
EH9 2HH

Ms Anne McTaggart MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

22 October 2014

Dear Ms McTaggart

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your proposals on an Organ and Tissue Donation (Scotland) Bill.

The Royal College of Nursing is the world's largest professional union of nurses, representing around 415,000 nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students and health care support workers, including nearly 40,000 in Scotland. Our members work across the NHS, third and independent sectors.

On 24th July 2009, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Council was asked to consider the College position on organ donation. The results of the RCN member consultation held earlier that year were presented to assist the RCN Council in considering the College position. At this meeting Council agreed to support the retention of the current opt-in system and closely monitor implementation of the Organ Donation Taskforce Report recommendations and consequently consider if there was a need to change the RCN's position in light of progress.

At this time, the RCN does not favour a legislative change to an opt-out system for organ or tissue donation. The RCN continues to support the NHS Blood and Transplant's focus on 'changing public behaviour with regard to organ donation' and 'maximising conversion of potential donors into actual donors' by means other than adoption of an opt-out approach to consent. We, like you, acknowledge the progress made in Scotland in this regard to date and hope to see continued increases in donation rates as this work comes to fruition.

At this stage, given our stated position, we do not have further comments to add to your initial outline proposals. We will, of course, look in detail at any draft legislation in the light of the College position, should your proposals progress.

Yours sincerely

Theresa Fyffe
Director, RCN Scotland