

Cymdeithas Cleifion Arennau Cymru



Kidney Matters ... Wales

Registered Charity No. 1050907 Welsh Kidney Patients' Association

Newsflash

Dear readers, families and friends,

We are asking you all to take time to read this update on the Welsh Government's plans to introduce a 'Soft Opt Out' law for Organ Donation in Wales and to respond to the consultation questions.

The result of WKPA surveys in 2007 & 2009 show that 80% of our members are in favour of the soft opt out system and we urgently need to act now to respond and give our views on the eight questions being asked.

In the recent Christmas edition of KMW you were able to read some background information on the 'Soft Opt Out' proposal.

A **White Paper consultation document** has since been published. To see the full document go to:

www.wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/org

Summary of key points

The key points of the soft opt out system of posthumous organ and tissue donation being introduced by the Welsh Government proposal, are shown in this leaflet.

Best Wishes for 2012 from your committee members !

- It will apply to people aged 18 and over who live and die in Wales
- Each person within this group will have the opportunity to object to donation of their organs and tissues, ('Opt Out')
- An effective and secure system will be in place for individuals to make an objection to donation should they wish to, and such a system will enable objection to donation of some or all organs and tissues.
- Any objection of an individual to donate organs and/or tissues, will be upheld after death
- The system will support the opportunity for individuals to change their minds, and to include people who reach the age of 18 or move to Wales
- After death, families will be involved in the decisions making process around donation.

The consultation process

This consultation asks **eight specific questions** to help plan the way forward. People are also invited to add their own comments as necessary.

The eight questions are:

- 1.** The White Paper sets out individuals must have lived in Wales for sufficient period of time before being included within the soft opt-out system:
 - a) What factors should be taken into account when determining whether an individual lives in Wales?
 - b) What should that period of time be?
- 2.** Do you agree discussions between clinicians and family in the event of an individual's death, will identify and safeguard those who lack capacity?

3. Do you agree that the soft opt-out system for Wales should only apply to persons aged 18 and over? If not, why?

4. Do you agree with the retention of the existing Organ Donor Register, to be operated in conjunction with the soft opt out system?

5. In relation to the record keeping options for the soft opt-out system, the following options have been listed:

Option A – a register for Wales of persons who have not objected, and a register of persons who have objected

Option B – a register for Wales of only those persons who have not objected

Option C – a register for Wales of only those persons who have objected

Option D – no register(s) but a record of objection to be held by a person's general practitioner

In relation to the record keeping options for the soft opt-out system above:-

a. Which of the suggested options do you prefer?

b. Are there other options you feel would provide an effective and secure system?

6. What is the role of the family in safeguarding the wishes of the deceased?

7. How can the Welsh Government ensure that the public awareness campaign is effective?

8. The Welsh Government would welcome your views on the potential impact of the proposed soft opt-out option for the Welsh Language, race, faith, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership.

9. The Welsh Government has asked a number of specific questions; if you have any related concerns or comments which have not been specifically addressed, please record them.

Your response

You can respond to the consultation questions in one of **three** ways. These are:

- **On-line form:**
www.wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/org
- **Email:** organdonation@wales.gsi.gov.uk
- **Write to:** The Organ Donation Bill Team,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff. CF10 3NQ.
(Tel 029 2037 0011)

Your response is needed before **January 31st 2012**, which is the deadline for the consultation period.

Your responses are needed NOW to provide the Welsh Government with your views on how best to implement the soft opt out law in Wales.

Please also ask your friends and family to respond.

Martyn Hutchings Chair WKPA

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