

From:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

To: Edwina Hart AM MBE  
Minister for Health & Social Services  
Welsh Assembly Government

Copy to:  
Members of the Wales Cross Party Kidney Group  
Chair Kidney Wales Foundation  
People Like Us Council

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Minister Edwina Hart AM MBE,

I believe the Welsh Assembly Government should change the organ donation consent system in Wales to an Opt Out system.

Around 27 % of the eligible population in Wales is registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register but we know that a vast majority of the population in Wales are in favour of organ donation.

I am concerned that at present on average 1 person dies every 11 days in Wales whilst waiting for a transplant. There is a critical shortage of organs available for transplantation. I understand there are currently 446 people awaiting a kidney transplant in Wales but there were only 69 kidney transplants from deceased donors and a further 11 kidney/pancreas transplants performed last year. It is therefore inevitable that some patients are going to die before a suitable organ becomes available.

I believe that by changing legislation and moving to a system of Opting Out in Wales it would enable those who object to the use of their organs to have their views respected, while ensuring the maximum possible donation rate from the rest of the population. Similar systems work in Belgium and Spain (which has a "soft opt-out" system where the views of close relatives are taken into account).

European countries like Spain and Belgium have a higher number of donors than the UK. I firmly believe if the "Soft" option of the Opt out system was introduced in Wales then people's wishes would be upheld and this would ultimately lead to an increase in transplants performed.

Please use this opportunity to support significant changes to the organ donor system and help to find a solution by changing the law.

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Dated.....

Please return to:

Kidney Wales Foundation, 1 Radnor Court, 256 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff , CF5 1GZ

For submission to the Organ Donation Consultation

## **Consultation Scope:**

This consultation exercise is seeking views on three possible options:

1. Do nothing - leave the current organ donation consent system as it is and focus on awareness campaigns and implementing the UK Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations
2. In addition to focusing on awareness campaigns and implementing the UK Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations, consider legislative options to change the organ donation consent system in Wales to a soft opt-out system
3. No legal change but implement a system of obtaining and recording consent involving primary care (in addition to focussing on awareness campaigns and implementing the UK Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations).

## **Consultation Questions**

**Question 1:** Should the Welsh Assembly Government leave the current organ donation consent system as it is and rely on annual awareness campaigns and implementing the UK Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations?

**Question 2:** Should the Welsh Assembly Government look at legislative options to change the organ donation consent system in Wales to a soft opt-out system?

**Question 3:** Do you have any suggestions about what the Welsh Assembly Government should consider if a legislative options where taken forward to introduce a soft opt-out system in Wales?

**Question 4:** Should the Welsh Assembly Government look at implementing a system of obtaining and recording consent involving primary care?

**Any other comments:**