

REF NO.

**SUBMITTING EVIDENCE TO A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE  
DATA PROTECTION FORM**

## **HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE**

### **HUMAN TISSUE (AUTHORISATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

#### **SUBMISSION FROM THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING IN SCOTLAND**

##### **Background**

Earlier this year, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) issued a position statement on consent for organ and tissue donation after death. It reads:

-out system of consent for organ and tissue donations after death, where there is evidence that certain safeguards, supports and

The RCN reached this position after it surveyed its members in early 2018. More than 7,700 members completed the survey. 71% of RCN members were broadly in favour of an opt-out system of consent for organ and tissue donation (rating between 7 and 10 on a scale of 0-10 from opt-in to opt-out). The majority support for an opt-out system was reflected across all four countries of the UK: Wales (75%); England (69%); Scotland (71%), and Northern Ireland (73%).

Whilst the majority opinion on an opt-out system for consent was clear, the survey also highlighted the work still to be done among nursing staff and the public to increase the rate of organ and tissue donation, irrespective of the system of consent.

Only 25% of RCN members felt they could speak with confidence about organ donation with patients and their families.

Only 22% of RCN members felt they could speak with confidence about tissue donation with patients and their families.

Sufficient resources are made available to define and support the additional infrastructure and capacity required to increase the rate of successful donations, including increased and sustainable investment in the number of Specialist Nurses in Organ Donation (SNODs), before any opt-out system is introduced.

*The RCN appreciates the difficulty*

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*appreciate that NHSBT may not be the appropriate organisation to lead this wider programme, and this may sit more appropriately with the Scottish Government.*

Trained health professionals must discuss the expressed wishes of the deceased

Any opt-out scheme should have clear residency criteria included to ensure that temporary residents are not presumed to have given consent.

*The RCN is content that intent of the legislation is in line with this safeguard in the RCN position. Guidance must make clear to RCN members what steps are reasonable to ascertain compliance with residency criteria.*