

STAGE 1 DEBATE: HUMAN TISSUE (AUTHORISATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL

The Royal College of Nursing position on the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the world's largest professional organisation and trade union for nursing staff, with members in the NHS, independent and third sectors. With around 40,000 members in Scotland, the RCN is the voice of nursing.

The RCN supports the principles of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill. In 2018 the RCN issued a position statement on soft opt out organ donation. It reads:

"The Royal College of Nursing supports an opt-out system of consent for organ and tissue donations after death, where there is evidence that certain people are in

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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, irrespe96 231.8071.544 -6.96 231.89 674

The opt-out system is limited to adults only. Consent for donations from children and young people should continue to be addressed by existing opt-in/parental consent arrangements.

Adults who have never had the capacity to consent would not be included in the opt-out scheme. The scheme must also make clear how adults who lost the capacity to consent for a period before death would be excluded from the opt-out.

The opt-out scheme is limited to organs and tissue donated for transplant. Adults must still opt-in to donate organs and tissue for research and other purposes.

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support a shift in the culture of conversations on donation. The RCN has