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To: +SM_CO-Health_OrganDonationBill <Committee.health_organ donationbill@niassembly.gov.uk>

Cc: Consult <Consult@rcp.ac.uk>; Farry, Deirdre <Deirdre.Farry@niassembly.gov.uk>

Subject: Call for Evidence : Organ and Tissue (Deemed Consent) Bill

Dear health committee clerk

The RCP is grateful for the opportunity to respond to the above call for evidence.

In 2018 we issued a [consultation statement on organ donation](#). With regards to this bill, points one and four are particularly relevant:

- Trends in donation must be monitored to assess whether any reform has its intended effect. Experience to date shows that moving from an opt-in to an opt-out system does not necessarily increase donation rates.
- There should be an ongoing, effective information campaign to ensure that everyone who is likely to be regarded as a donor is aware of it. The campaign should aim to convey the criteria of death that are used for donation and explain who is excluded from the opt-out system.

As we feel these points have been met in the bill, we have no amendments to suggest. We would be grateful if you could confirm whether an impact assessment has been conducted to assess whether the same resources would be better employed in improving the current opt-in system.

If the bill passes, when implemented it is important that:

- The administrative support for information management must be of a high quality. We must learn from other countries that have an opt-out system. An opt-out system poses more administrative challenges than an opt-in system, particularly if there is a variety of ways of signalling a decision to opt-out.
- At least as much respect is paid to the views of families and relatives as in the current system.
- A decision to opt-out must be respected whatever the reasons for that decision, be they religious, conscientious, personal or something else.
- Appropriate resources should be made available to make sure that any new system meets the above conditions.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt.

Best wishes

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