

Dr John R Darling MD, FFARCSI, FRCA
Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine
CMOs Specialty Advisor, Anaesthetics
Department of Anaesthetics
Ulster Hospital
BT16 1 RH

3rd December 2015

To The Chair and Members of the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public
Safety Room B32, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX

Dear Ms McLaughlin,

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Human Transplantation
(Northern Ireland) Bill.

I have worked as a Consultant in Intensive Care for over 20 years and have been
involved in dealing with many potential donors and their families. I am also the Chair of the
Northern Ireland Advisory Board to the Royal College of Anaesthetists. These are my
personal views after discussion with a significant number of my colleagues.

I would like to make the following comments:

Firstly, the Bill is entitled: Human Transplantation (Northern Ireland) Bill. However,
in my view the major part concerns the donation of human organs for the purpose of
transplantation. I would like to see the words donor or donation used at least once in the Bill.
This would help give recognition to the families and friends making a public-spirited and
generous decision at a time of great distress. I find that it is often of comfort to bereaved
families that their near relative's organs have brought benefit to others. Making this a duty
may diminish this comfort.

Secondly, I find that Clause 4 (2) (b) is somewhat unclear. In the case of a potential
donor where the relatives cannot affirm that the person would not have objected to that
transplantation activity it would seem that deemed consent is not effective and the organs
cannot be retrieved for transplantation even if the relatives would have consented under the
present legislation. This may result in fewer organs being made available for transplantation.

Finally, I am fully supportive of the education and promotion of organ donation and
this, in my view, is where the most benefit in increasing donation rates will accrue.

Yours Sincerely,

John R Darling