Isle of Man Government

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Human Tissue and Organ Donation Act – Codes of Practice & Secondary Legislation (2025)

Public Consultation

Cabinet Office

March 2025

Contents

Overview

Views are sought from the public on the Codes of Practice and Secondary Legislation required to implement the Human Tissue and Organ Donation (HTOD) Act 2021.

Recent statistics show that around 8,000 people in the UK (including some from the Isle of Man) are waiting for a transplant. On the Island, approximately 53% of residents have registered a decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register — a confidential record of people's organ donation preferences. Source: NHS Blood and Transplant ('NHSBT').

Many people have generously chosen to donate their organs and tissue after death, but despite this, there is still a shortage of donors. Moving to an opt-out system better reflects the majority view—that most people would be willing to donate their organs and tissue unless they have stated otherwise. At the same time, the system respects the rights of those who do not wish to donate.

The UK's Human Tissue Act sets out how human tissue is removed, stored, used, and disposed of, with consent being the fundamental principle. Different consent rules apply depending on whether the tissue is from a living or deceased person. Recognising the need for a similar legal framework, significant work has been undertaken to develop this Act.

Legislative Journey of the Act in Tynwald

- **October 2017** – Tynwald granted permission for Mr Martyn Perkins MHK to introduce a Private Member's Bill on organ donation.
- **March – June 2018** – A public consultation on the proposed Bill was held, gathering views on whether the Isle of Man should move to a presumed consent system. The consultation results are available on the Government Consultation Hub.
- **October 2020** – The Organ Donation Bill was introduced to the House of Keys for First Reading.
- **2020-2021** – The Bill progressed through House of Keys and Legislative Council, undergoing detailed scrutiny, amendments, and debate.
- **July 2021** – The Bill received Royal Assent and became the Human Tissue and Organ Donation Act 2021.

The Act introduces:

- **An opt-out system**: Individuals are presumed to consent to organ donation unless they actively opt out.
- **A regulatory framework**: Licensing and compliance standards for the handling, storage, and disposal of human tissue, ensuring alignment with UK ethical and safety practices.

Public Health, on behalf of the Cabinet Office, are responsible for implementing this legislation.

Read more and access Hansard Recordings on the Tynwald website
https://tynwald.org.im/business/bills

Progress so far

Under sections 26(5) and 75 of the Act, the Cabinet Office is required to consult with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and any other persons it considers appropriate before publishing any Codes of Practice.

Additionally, consultation with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is required before issuing any documents or directions under the Act.

Ahead of publishing this consultation, Public Health has worked extensively with representatives from:

- Department of Health and Social Care
- Manx Care
- The Constabulary
- The Courts of Justice
- Manx National Heritage
- HM Attorney General's Chamber
- Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Additional engagement has taken place with NHSBT, the Human Tissue Authority, Manx Care's Organ Donation Committee, the charity Organ Donation Isle of Man, and the Lord Bishop.

Further advice has also been sought from the Governments of England, Scotland, Jersey and Guernsey, as well as the UK's Department of Health and Social Care.

Why your views matter

Under the Act, the Cabinet Office must publish Codes of Practice which give clear guidance on how certain activities related to human bodies, organs, and tissues should be handled. This includes:

- How anatomical exams and post-mortems are carried out
- How human organs and tissues are stored, used, and disposed of
- How families of the deceased are communicated with
- How consent is handled for organ and tissue use
- Rules for importing and exporting human remains or tissue

In addition, the Cabinet Office holds the legal authority to issue regulations and orders on human tissue use, including organ donation. These include:

- **Authorisation of organ and tissue removal:** defining who can remove organs or tissues from a deceased person and under what conditions

- **Licensing of activities:** establishing licensing requirements for anatomical examinations, post-mortems, and storage or use of human tissues

- **Entry and inspection of licensed premises:** inspectors can enter and inspect premises where a licence is in force, to check compliance

- **Ethically approved research:** the use of human tissue for medical research is permitted if it is carried out anonymously and has been ethically approved

Eight draft Codes of Practice and five pieces of Secondary Legislation, largely derived from UK legislation, are available to view or download on the 'Related' section on the consultation homepage.

A Keeling Schedule (a colour-coded document that shows the original text with changes highlighted for easy comparison) to illustrate the amendments to the Coroners of Inquests Rules 1988, is also available as a related document for the *Coroners of Inquests (Amendment) Rules*

2025. These should be considered alongside the *Human Tissue and Organ Donation Act 2021*, which is also available to view or download on the Government Consultation Hub.

Views are now being sought from statutory consultees and the wider public on these draft Codes of Practice and secondary legislation, which have been developed with input from key stakeholders.

This consultation ensures compliance with legal requirements while providing an opportunity for meaningful engagement. It is proposed that the Codes of Practice and Secondary legislation will be submitted for the sitting of Tynwald Court in July 2025.

Reasonable adjustments and alternative formats

The Department is committed to equal opportunities and our aim is to make our documents easy to use and accessible to all.

We will take steps to accommodate any reasonable adjustments and provide such assistance as you may reasonably require to enable you to access or reply to this consultation.

If you would like to receive this document in another format or need assistance with accessing or replying to this consultation, please email Peter.Shimmin@gov.im or telephone +44 1624 642646.

Responding to this consultation

You can respond to this consultation online by clicking on the 'Online Survey' link on the Government Consultation Hub.

Alternatively you can download a paper version of this consultation and email it to Peter.Shimmin@gov.im or post it to:

Peter Shimmin, Implementation Officer
Public Health, Cabinet Office,
Cronk Coar, Noble's Hospital
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Consultation Questions

About You

Please note that most questions on this consultation are **optional**, with the exception of the consent question below 'May we publish your response'.

There are multiple text boxes provided throughout the consultation, but you are not required to complete them unless you want to explain your view.

Please refrain from adding personal information to these boxes. Throughout this consultation, please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself. Any personal information added to these boxes will be redacted.

To help understand some of the terms used in this consultation, it may be useful to review the Glossary to the Codes of Practice which is available in the 'Related' section on the homepage of this consultation.

What is your name?

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

☐Yes

☐No

Organisation Name:

Your position within the organisation:

May we publish your response?

Please read our Privacy Policy for more details and your rights:
https://consult.gov.im/privacy_policy

- Publish in full – your name, organisation name, along with full answers may be published on the hub (your email will not be published)
- Publish anonymously – only your responses may be published on the hub (your name and organisation name will not be published)
- Do not publish – nothing will be published publically on the hub (your response will only be part of a larger summary response document)

☐ Yes, you may publish my response in full

☐ Yes, you may publish my response anonymously

☐ No, please do not publish my response

Do you know how and where to register your organ donation decision?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you registered your decision already?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

Have you shared your decision with your family?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself.

You can register your decision in 3 ways:

- Registering through the NHS' organ donation registration page: https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-your-decision/
- Calling the NHS Organ Donation Register on 0300 123 23 23
- Via the NHS App

Code A – Consent

About Code A

Code A explains how consent works for organ and tissue donation. It sets out the rules for how people can choose to donate their organs or tissue after they die, as well as how doctors and healthcare professionals must handle those decisions.

Key points

- If you want to be an organ or tissue donor, you can register your decision or talk to your family about your wishes
- If you don't want to be a donor, you can opt out by registering your decision
- If you haven't recorded a decision, under the opt-out system (deemed consent), you may still be considered a donor unless you're in an excluded group (e.g. under 18s, people without mental capacity)
- Your family will always be involved in discussions before donation goes ahead, to ensure your wishes are respected

Relevant section

We're asking for views on whether the consent process is clear and easy to understand. We also want to know if people think it respects the wishes of individuals, including those from different faiths and backgrounds.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree that the current consent process is clear and easy to understand for individuals considering tissue and organ donation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

What improvements could be made to the consent process to better respect individual rights and beliefs?

Cabinet Office intends to bring the Codes of Practice and Secondary Legislation to Tynwald in July 2025.

How long after this do you think the deemed consent ('opt out') process should commence?

☐ After 6 months

☐ After 12 months

☐ After 18 months

☐ None of the above

Please explain your view.

Code B – Post-Mortem Examination

About Code B

Code B explains the rules for post-mortem (after death) examinations, which are sometimes needed to find out how someone died. It covers the process of seeking consent from families for hospital post-mortems and explains how tissues and organs should be handled after an examination.

Key points

- A hospital post-mortem can only happen if consent is given by the person before they died or by their next of kin
- A coroner's post-mortem (when ordered by law) does not need family consent, but families should still be informed
- Families should receive clear, compassionate, and timely information to help them understand the process and make informed decisions
- The rules also explain how tissue samples and organs are stored, used, or returned after a post-mortem, so families know what to expect

Relevant section

Pages 26 to 30 of Code B explain the rules for how tissue and organs are stored, retained, or disposed of after a post-mortem examination. It ensures that all actions taken comply with legal and ethical standards, respect the deceased, and provide clear choices to families.

- After a coroner's post-mortem, any retained tissue or organs must be stored properly until the coroner no longer needs them
- Families must be informed about their options once the coroner's investigation is complete. These options include:
    1. Burial or cremation of the retained material
    2. Returning the material to the family so they can make their own arrangements
    3. Further retention for research, education, or training, but only with consent
- If families do not communicate their decision, material will typically be held for three months before being disposed of appropriately.
- Disposal must be dignified and respectful, with records kept of all actions taken

These procedures are supported by the proposed changes to the Coroners of Inquests Rules 1988, as set out in the Coroner of Inquests (Amendment) Rules 2025. A keeling schedule has been prepared to illustrate how these amendments may have effect in the original rules.

We're asking for views on whether the process of seeking consent for a hospital post-mortem is clear and handled appropriately. We also want to know how we can improve communication with families during this difficult time.

We are asking for views on whether the procedures for storing and disposing of tissue and organs after a post-mortem examination are clear, respectful, and handled appropriately.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree with the proposed process of seeking consent for a hospital post-mortem?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

How else could we ensure families receive clear, compassionate, and timely information to support their decision about a hospital post-mortem?

Do you agree with the proposed procedures for storing and disposing of tissue and organs after post-mortem examinations?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Code C – Anatomical Examination

About Code C

Code C explains the rules for the examination, storage, and disposal of human bodies and body parts used for teaching anatomy, surgical training, and research. It ensures that bodies and tissues are treated with dignity and respect while maintaining high ethical and legal standards.

Key points

- People can donate their bodies for anatomical examination, but they must give written consent before they die
- Medical schools, universities, and healthcare training institutions use donated bodies for teaching and research
- The import and export of bodies or body parts is regulated to ensure ethical sourcing and proper consent
- Proper storage and disposal procedures must be followed, ensuring bodies and tissue are treated respectfully
- A person who consents to their body, tissue or organs being used for anatomical examination must ensure arrangements are made prior to their death, or their family must make the necessary arrangements afterward
- The establishment is not responsible for organising the donation process, and any costs related to transporting the body, tissue or organs must be covered by the donor or their family

Relevant section

Pages 9 to 13 detail the storage and disposal of bodies, tissues and organs for anatomical examination, as well as guidelines around import and export of such material.

Import and export of human bodies, organs, and tissue:

- Bodies or tissue must be legally and ethically sourced, with evidence of appropriate consent
- Importers must ensure tissue is handled, stored, and transported respectfully
- Exporting bodies or tissue must comply with the donor's consent and local regulations

Storage and disposal of cadaveric material:

- Bodies and tissues must be stored securely in licensed facilities
- Tracking systems must be in place to ensure full traceability of donated material
- Establishments must have clear policies on disposal that align with ethical and legal guidelines

This consultation seeks views on whether these processes are clear, respectful, and practical.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree with the proposed consent process for using bodies, tissues, and organs in anatomical examinations?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Do you agree with the proposed controls around the import/export of bodies, tissues and organs to be used for the purpose of anatomical examination?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Do you agree that the storage and disposal arrangements for bodies, tissues and organs are appropriate?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Code D – Public Display of Human Tissue

About Code D

Code D sets out the rules for the public display of human bodies, organs, and tissues. It explains when consent and a license are required, and how bodies and human remains should be treated with dignity and respect. This Code applies to museums, galleries, exhibitions, medical institutions, and any public displays of human material.

Key points

- Consent is required to publicly display the body, organs, or tissue of a deceased person if they died within the last 100 years
- A license is required for storing or displaying human remains from a deceased person, but not for displaying body parts from a living person or if there are no plans to display it
- Establishments can inform authorities in writing if they do not intend to display material, and a license will not be required
- Displays must ensure public awareness, dignity, and ethical considerations—for example, warning visitors in advance if human remains will be on display
- Storage and disposal of human tissue must follow strict procedures, ensuring human remains are handled with respect and traceability is maintained

Relevant section

Pages 9 to 13 and 17 to 25 in Code D provide guidelines on Consent, Licensing and Governance Standards for displaying human tissue:

- Public display must be consented to by the individual before death—families cannot give consent on their behalf
- Museums and exhibitions must ensure dignity and respect, using signage, ethical handling, and appropriate display methods
- Public institutions must follow strict licensing and governance rules, ensuring traceability, storage security, and disposal protocols

Public Health spoke with Manx National Heritage ahead of this consultation. They said:

> *'Manx National Heritage cares for and protects the Manx National Collections, which include ancient human remains. Appropriate consideration of those remains and full engagement with MNH has taken place.'*

This consultation is seeking feedback on whether the licensing process and guidelines for public display of human tissue are appropriate and respectful.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree that a license is not necessary for storing tissue with no plans for public display.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view.

Do you agree with the proposed guidelines for the types of human tissue that may be displayed to the public?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Code E – Research

About Code E
Code E outlines the rules for the use, storage, and disposal of human tissue and organs for research purposes. It ensures that research involving human material is conducted ethically, with proper consent and oversight. This Code applies to tissue banks, medical research, clinical trials, and laboratory-based studies that use human tissue.

Key points
- Researchers must obtain proper consent before using tissue or organs in research
- Ethical approval is required for certain types of research, ensuring that studies are conducted responsibly
- Strict licensing rules apply to the storage and use of human tissue for research, except in specific situations where ethical approval is granted
- The rules ensure that human tissue is handled, stored, and disposed of respectfully and in line with donor wishes

Relevant section
The Isle of Man Research Ethics Committee (IOMREC) provides independent advice to the Cabinet Office on the extent to which proposals for research studies comply with recognised ethical standards. The purpose of the IOMREC is to review proposed health and social care research applications which are deemed to require ethical review, in order to protect the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all actual or potential research participants. Visit gov.im/iomrec (opens in a new tab).

Public Health spoke with the IOMREC ahead of this consultation. They said:

> *'The IoMREC have received briefings from Public Health on the proposed implementation of the Human Tissue and Organ Donation Act, in particular the Codes of Practice and especially Code E, dealing with research.*
>
> *We note the proposed role of IoMREC in conducting ethical reviews and providing recommendations to the Cabinet Office's granting of ethical approval for proposed storage of and research on human tissues. We support the proposed role of IoMREC in this area.*
>
> *IoMREC will review its capabilities and expertise relating to evaluating the scientific validity of human tissue research proposals to ensure that such capabilities and expertise is available to IoMREC.'*

Page 19 and 20 in Code E discuss ethical approval and its interaction with licensing:

- Research using human tissue requires ethical approval from the Isle of Man Research Ethics Committee (IOMREC)
- Research tissue banks may receive generic ethical approval, allowing them to store and distribute tissue for multiple projects
- A Public Health (PH) license is required for long-term storage unless a specific research project has been approved

This consultation is gathering feedback on whether the definitions, licensing, and ethical approval processes for research are clear, fair, and effective.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree with how 'research' is defined in the code (Page 7)?

Definition of research in Code E:

> *The HTODA does not contain a definition of research, but for the purposes of what falls within DHSC's remit and CO's regulatory function, the following definition is applied:*
> *A study which addresses clearly defined questions, aims and objectives in order to discover and interpret new information or reach new understanding of the structure, function and disorders of the human body. Research attempts to derive new knowledge and includes studies that aim to generate hypotheses, as well as studies that aim to test them or develop practical applications or new knowledge.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Do you agree that the proposed process for granting ethical approval for research is appropriate?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Do you think research using human tissue be monitored after it has been approved? Consider:

- **What checks, if any, should be in place to make sure research follows the rules?**
- **How could this be done without creating too much extra work?**
- **Is monitoring needed, or is ethical approval and consent enough?**

Please explain your view.

Code F (Part 1) – Living Organ Donation

About Code F (Part 1)
Code F (Part 1) explains the rules and ethical guidelines for living organ donation—when a person donates an organ or tissue while they are still alive. Since living organ donation does not take place on the Isle of Man, this Code provides guidance on supporting individuals who travel off-island to donate. It ensures that potential donors fully understand the process, risks, and safeguards in place.

Key points

- People from the Isle of Man can travel to the UK (or elsewhere) for living organ donation, but must meet strict legal and ethical requirements
- Consent must be fully informed and voluntary—potential donors should understand all risks, including surgery, recovery, and potential complications
- Manx Care may provide support to individuals considering donation, ensuring they have access to information and appropriate medical guidance
- Financial incentives for organ donation are illegal, but donors can be reimbursed for reasonable expenses like travel and lost earnings
- Special rules apply to children or adults lacking capacity—court approval is required in such cases

Relevant section
Page 4 and Pages 8 to 10 in Code F (Part 1) give advice for people traveling off-Island for living organ donation and guidance for clinicians:

- Manx Care should ensure that people traveling for donation receive clear information about the process
- Donors should be given a copy of the Human Tissue Authority's guidance and access to independent support
- Clinicians must ensure that donors fully understand the medical, ethical, and legal aspects before they proceed

This consultation seeks feedback on whether the guidance for people traveling off-island for living organ donation is clear, supportive, and ensures donors can make an informed choice.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree that the code of practice clearly details the advice people should receive if they are travelling off island for living organ transplantation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Code F (Part 2) – Deceased Organ and Tissue Donation

About Code F (Part 2)
Code F (Part 2) outlines the process for donating organs and tissue after death. It explains how consent works, how organs and tissues are used, and how the donation process should be handled sensitively and ethically. This Code ensures that donation is done in line with the donor's wishes and legal requirements.

Key points

- All adults in the Isle of Man are considered potential organ donors unless they have opted out or are in an excluded group (e.g. lived on the island for less than 12 months)
- Families are always consulted to ensure the donor's wishes are understood and respected
- The donation process must be sensitive to religious and cultural beliefs, and families can provide relevant information to guide decision-making
- The process for preserving, storing, and using donated organs and tissues must follow strict ethical, medical, and legal standards

Relevant section
Pages 13 to 24 in Code F (Part 2) provide safeguards for deceased organ donations and details consent and the role of the family:

- Families can provide information about a donor's wishes if they believe the donor would not have consented
- If a donor's wishes are unclear, donation does not automatically go ahead
- Special safeguards exist to ensure donation decisions respect the donor's beliefs and are not forced or misinterpreted

This consultation seeks feedback on whether the definition of residency is clear and fair, and whether the safeguards in place ensure organ donations are handled ethically and respectfully.

The consultation is asking whether these safeguards are sufficient to ensure that donations align with the deceased's wishes.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree with how 'resident' and 'ordinarily resident' are defined, particularly for students and prisoners (Pages 25-28)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Do you agree that the proposed safeguards ensure organ donations align with the deceased's wishes?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Code G – Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood Stem Cell (PBSC) Donation

About Code G

Code G outlines the rules and ethical guidelines for the donation of allogeneic bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cells (PBSCs) for transplantation. This applies to living donors who are voluntarily donating these cells to help a patient in need.

Since bone marrow and PBSC donations do not take place on the Isle of Man, this Code provides guidance on how Manx Care supports individuals who travel off-island to donate. It ensures that all donations are voluntary, safe, and legally compliant.

Key points

- Donors must provide informed consent—they should fully understand the risks and process before proceeding
- Manx Care may support adults and competent children in traveling to the UK or elsewhere for donation
- Court approval may be needed for certain cases, such as donations involving children or individuals who lack capacity
- The process must ensure no financial gain—donors may only be reimbursed for reasonable expenses like travel and lost earnings
- Clinicians must provide clear guidance and support to donors throughout the process

Relevant section

Pages 11 to 12 in Code G give advice for people traveling off-Island for these sorts of donations, and guidance for clinicians:

- Manx Care should ensure clear, accurate, and accessible information is provided to those considering donation
- Donors should receive a copy of the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) guidance explaining their rights and the donation process
- Clinicians should support donors in understanding risks, legal implications, and procedural requirements

This consultation is gathering feedback on whether the advice given to individuals traveling off-island for bone marrow or PBSC donation is clear, supportive, and ensures donors can make an informed choice.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree that the code of practice clearly explains the advice given to people traveling off-island for bone marrow or PBSC donation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Licensing Standards and Exceptions

Licensing standards exist to ensure that any activity involving human tissue, organs, and bodies is carried out ethically, safely, and in line with legal requirements. These standards apply to organ donation, post-mortem examinations, anatomical study, public display, research, and transplantation. The Cabinet Office is responsible for licensing and inspecting establishments that carry out these activities under the HTODA.

Each Code of Practice (A to G) sets out specific licensing requirements based on the type of activity, and are listed at the end of each code.

Key points

- Licensing ensures proper oversight, preventing misuse of human tissue and ensuring compliance with ethical and legal standards
- Establishments handling human remains must follow clear procedures for consent, storage, disposal, and record-keeping
- Certain exemptions apply where a license may not be needed, for example, for tissue that is not intended for public display, where tissue or organs are being stored temporarily before being moved to a licensed premises; where tissue is being used for ethically approved research; and where the tissue has been provided for analysis from a licensed tissue bank
- The licensing framework aims to strike a balance between regulation and allowing necessary medical, educational, and scientific activities to take place

Relevant sections

The Human Tissue and Organ Donation (Licensing) Regulations 2025 set out certain activities that do not require a license under the Act. These exceptions include:

- Temporary storage of tissue for transplantation before it is transferred to licensed premises
- Ethically approved research: tissue used for qualifying research that has received approval from the Director of Public Health
- Analysis of tissue (not for research): where tissue has been supplied from a licensed premises in the Isle of Man or UK for analysis only and will be returned to the licensed site after testing

These exceptions, based on similar UK regulations, ensure that regulatory controls remain proportionate. They prevent unnecessary duplication of effort, as they are subject to other safeguards, such as licensing or ethical approval, as required by the Act.

This consultation is gathering feedback on whether the licensing framework is clear, practical, and effective in balancing oversight with necessary medical and research activities.

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you agree with the proposed licensing standards?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions on how to improve, please do share below.

Do you agree with the proposed exceptions to licensing standards?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view. If you have any suggestions, please do share below.

Communications Duties

Under the HTODA, Cabinet Office has a responsibility to provide information and raise public awareness about organ and tissue donation. This includes:

- Providing clear guidance to the public and professionals about how donation works and what ethical principles must be followed
- Ensuring compliance with the law and Codes of Practice by offering oversight and advice.
- Publishing information that explains the purpose and benefits of donation

Annual Publicity Duty (March 15th)

A specific legal duty exists to secure publicity each year on or around March 15th to promote the importance of organ and tissue donation for transplantation. This ensures that the public is regularly informed and encouraged to consider their donation choices.

This consultation is asking for views on how best to communicate organ and tissue donation messages to the public. Effective communication ensures that people:

- Understand their rights and options under the opt-out system
- Have accurate information to make informed decisions
- Feel reassured and supported in discussing donation with family and healthcare staff

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

What communication methods do you believe would be most effective in encouraging people to consider organ and tissue donation? Tick all that apply.

☐ Billboards
☐ Direct mail (flyers/postcards)
☐ Events/Lectures
☐ Newspapers/Magazines
☐ Posters
☐ Press release
☐ Radio
☐ Social media (Facebook)
☐ Social media (Instagram)
☐ Social media (LinkedIn)
☐ Social media (Twitter/X)
☐ Social media (Other)
☐ Webinars
☐ Website
☐ None of the above

Other social media:

Please explain your view

Common Concerns and Misconceptions

Despite the well-documented benefits of organ donation, some individuals have concerns or misunderstandings about the process, which may deter them from registering or discussing their wishes.

Below are some of the most frequently raised concerns, along with factual clarifications.

1. Will doctors still try to save my life if I am an organ donor?
Yes. Healthcare professionals have a duty of care to save your life first. If, despite their best efforts, death is inevitable, organ and tissue donation will be considered as end of life care discussions start with your family, friends and next of kin. Only when end of life care planning is started is the NHS Organ Donor Register accessed by healthcare professionals and the possibility of organ donation discussed with the patient's family.

2. Am I too old or too unwell to donate?
Advanced age or having an illness or medical condition doesn't necessarily prevent a person from becoming an organ or tissue donor. The decision about whether some or all organs or tissue are suitable for transplant is made by a medical specialist at the time of donation, taking into account your medical, travel and social history.

3. If I do not opt out, will my organs be taken without my family's input?
Even under an opt-out system, families will continue to be involved before organ donation goes ahead. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Out of consideration to the family who are facing the loss of someone close to them.
- The family may have important information about the person's decision around donation that is more recent than any decision recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register.
- Family support helps ensure important information about their relative, such as their medical, travel and social history is available to our specialist nurses in organ donation.

4. Will my organs go to a Manx resident waiting for a transplant?
Your organs would more often than not, be donated to a recipient in the UK. The process of matching a donor with a recipient depends on a number of factors so your organs will go to the person who is the most appropriate match at that time. This could be someone in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Likewise, if you are on the waiting list for a transplant, your organ may ultimately come from the UK rather than the Isle of Man. By being a part of the NHS Organ Donor Register, Isle of Man residents have a greater chance of receiving the organ they need to survive.

5. What is the role of NHSBT and SNODs (Specialist Nurse Organ Donation)?
Public Health and Manx Care/DHSC work closely with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and Specialist Organ Donation Nurses (SNODs) to ensure a professional and compassionate process throughout. They provide expertise and support to guide families through the organ donation process and ensure that every step is carried out with the highest standards of care and respect.

For further information and answers to additional questions, visit the Cabinet Office's FAQ page on Organ Donation: https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/cabinet-office/public-health/organ-donation-in-the-isle-of-man/organ-donation-faqs/

Please do not provide any medical or health information about yourself in any of the boxes below.

Do you have any concerns about organ donation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your view.

What information or support would help you feel more informed or reassured about organ donation?

Do you have any other feedback on the codes of practice or proposed secondary legislation?

What you can do now

Organ donation remains an individual choice and relatives of loved ones who die in circumstances where a transplant is possible will still be consulted before donation goes ahead. We are asking that you discuss your choice with your family and loved ones and register your donation decision with the NHS Blood and Transplant Organ Donor Register

You can register your decision in 3 ways:

- Registering through the NHS' organ donation registration page: https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-your-decision/
- Calling the NHS Organ Donation Register on 0300 123 23 23
- Via the NHS App

There is no deadline to make your decision. You are free to register your decision whenever you like, and organ donation remains your choice.

Almost done…

If you wish to receive a copy of your response, you will need to provide your email address below. If you provide an email address you will be sent a scanned PDF copy of your response.

Email address:

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to consider the contents of this consultation document, and feedback on the proposed changes. Consultation responses will inform the briefing documents provided to Tynwald Members as the Codes of Practice and Secondary Legislation passes through to the Branches of Tynwald.

Consultation responses will also be collated and published on the Consultation Hub should you wish to review the outcome of this consultation.

Contact details

If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact:

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