

Health and Social Care Committee

HSC(4)-12-12 paper 7

Correspondence from the Petitions Committee: Petition P-04-375 Stop Opt-out Donation

Attached as an annex to this paper, please find attached correspondence from the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-375 Stop Opt-out Donation.

Committee Service

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau Petitions Committee

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Our ref: P-04-375

15 March 2012

Petition: Stop Opt-out Donation

The Petitions Committee has received the following petition, which collected 71 signatures:

'We call on the Welsh Government to stop proposals for its opt-out organ donation system. I think it is completely unethical for the Welsh Government to be pushing through an opt-out system for organ donation. This system should not be implemented, particularly if it does not consider the views of relatives. Whilst appreciating the need to donate organs in order to prevent unnecessary deaths, I still strongly believe it should be a decision that each individual takes and not something that is forced on them by the state. Archbishop of Wales Dr Morgan said: organ donation surely ought to be a matter of gift and not of duty" and I agree with his statement. This is violating individual rights and is an unfair system. Please sign this petition should you feel the same and want to stop this legislation being passed.'

As you know, the Welsh Government has issued a White Paper setting out its proposals for legislation on organ and tissue donation. At its meeting of 13 March, the Petitions Committee agreed to refer this petition to the Health and Social Care Committee, as the Committee that will be charged with scrutinising the future Bill on the subject.

The petitioner has informed the Committee that she is unhappy with the level of consultation undertaken by the Welsh Government on its legislative

proposals. A written statement by the Minister for Health and Social Services, issued on 8 March (attached), stated:

'the White Paper posed questions relating to the how the arrangements should work and did not explicitly invite respondents to state whether they supported the proposals.'

The Petitions Committee would like to request that whilst scrutinising the Bill, the Health and Social Care Committee explores the level of consultation undertaken and whether the questions posed as part of the process were explicit enough.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

William Powell
Petitions Committee Chair

Encs: Written Statement by Minister for Health and Social Services: Proposals for organ and tissue donation legislation – publication of analysis report following the consultation;
Summary of Welsh Government Consultation Responses
<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2012/organdonation/?lang=en>