Kidney Care UK – supplementary information on dialysis costs following the Health and Sport Committee evidence session on 6 November 2018

There are fewer transplants than there are people waiting - eight out of ten people on the transplant list are waiting for a kidney. One person will die today whilst they wait. The burden on mental health is also difficult. There are presently about 474 people in Scotland hoping for a kidney transplant. Transplantation makes an enormous difference and means that patients no longer have to go for dialysis, normally at least 3 times a week for four hours at a time. The burden of dialysis and restrictions of kidney failure are very high. It is also very expensive for treatment, medications and the cost of getting to and from hospital. Estimates from NHS England are of around £30,800 p.a. for dialysis treatment and around £5,000 pa for transplant treatments (excluding the year of transplant surgery) https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/a07-renal-transpl-ad-0414.pdf We also wish to draw attention to the additional substantial cost of dialysis patient transport, which is approximately 40-50% of the non-emergency patient transport budget. With 3 return journeys a week the costs per patient can be between £5,000 and £12,000 or more per patient per year depending on which vehicles are needed.

While it is the enormous increase in quality of life that we seek for patients through increasing transplantation by changing the law, we ask that the committee also take these points about the financial benefit of a kidney transplant into consideration.