

# Marion Odonnell submission of 9 February 2022

## PE1911/H – Review of Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 as it relates to post-mortems

I am supporting the above petition on post-mortems and tissue samples. Until recently I didn't know anything about post-mortems, didn't think of it until recently when a friend went through this terrible ordeal of having this happen to their loved one.

I understand the need for post-mortems when someone dies suddenly and unexpectedly. However, when I found out what it entails, the removal of the brain, throat and tongue and then these are put back into the stomach, it is horrendous. I feel strongly that the next of kin should be told about this and given the option of getting a torso only post-mortem.

Not only does this happen but tissue samples are taken without the consent of the next of kin and these are kept for research and not returned to the next of kin. This only happens in Scotland and not in the rest of the U.K, as we are part of the U.K this should not happen and the law should be changed. I am all for research but only with the consent of the next of kin.

After families going through this terrible ordeal for some people the death certificate has unascertained on it, I feel strongly that this should not be used and cause uncertain would be more appropriate.

I hope that you will support this petition and get things changed, so families do not have to go through this terrible ordeal.