

Yvonne Logan submission of 15 February 2022

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

I wish to express my support for the law to be changed on the handling of post-mortems and tissue samples.

I think that it is important that there is an opt out of post-mortems, as there is with organ donation, where there is no involvement with the Procurator Fiscal. Where possible this should be restricted to the torso only and consent obtained, in the first instance, from next of kin for any requirement beyond that.

In regards to tissue samples, these should always be offered back to the next of kin, in all cases, and not retained. The law in Scotland should be in line with the rest of the UK. It is offensive that tissue samples 'belong' to the procurator fiscal or pathologists for research, without consent. They belong to the deceased or next of kin and should be returned.

The word 'un-ascertained' should not be used on death certificates. It would be preferable to many people, who have suffered the loss of a loved one, that 'cause uncertain' is used as this is a more meaningful description and provides better understanding to next of kin.

Thank you for your time and I hope that meaningful change can be brought about for the next of kin, who have suffered, due to the current practices in place in Scotland.