

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

Petitioner written submission, 1 August 2025

Richard Stark's Law

The Committee is gaining support from MSPs who clearly see all of the below is immoral.

We are pleading with the Committee to keep this petition open as it affects everyone in Scotland. It has been extremely hard sharing Richard's story, but we couldn't have others going through this unbearable pain on top of grief! Stress causes serious illnesses! Many are on medication/counselling/benefits – look at the costs! I now have a chronic illness triggered by stress!

The Lord Advocate advises she is responsible for CRIME. The Crown Office/Procurator Fiscal are associated with CRIME and should stick to that. Non-suspicious deaths are NOT CRIMINAL! Most people have a LIKELY cause of death, such as Richard-medics agree.

Innocent families traumatised by this ordeal! There are more innocent people than criminals in this country, we are all being treated as criminals! And given a life sentence.

150 murder/suspicious deaths 1200 non-suspicious they ALL had a post-mortem. Look at the difference in numbers! Look at the level of suffering! Money & resources wasted, all for the sake of a worthless death certificate, hundreds/thousands wrong! We asked the Procurator Fiscal (PF) why our wishes were ignored, advised they don't make the decisions (pathologists do!) We asked why Richard had Arrhythmia recorded when results clearly stated "NOT SUPPORTED" Advised PF have no say in what is recorded! Pathologists are answerable to no-one. This must change!

Ministers advising this current law is fit for purpose – what planet are you on? Look at the suffering! This is about gaining samples of OUR loved ones! Medics agree there are plenty of people willing to leave organs/samples, they should not be taken without consent (stealing and grave robbing). There is also discrimination within this system.

There is no humanity/dignity/respect/compassion-heartless and the level of unnecessary suffering is shocking, this is TORTURE! People wrongly imprisoned start new lives, given compensation. N.O.K in non-suspicious deaths are given a life sentence NO CRIME COMMITTED! They will NEVER RECOVER! We want this law changed and human rights!

The law should be changed on the below, this is for everyone in Scotland!

N.O.K should have the CHOICE in non-suspicious deaths of a likely cause recorded or request a post-mortem by scanner. They seem to have forgotten post-mortems were brought in for families! It should be their CHOICE!

We feel pathologists went to Lancashire with their minds already made up and have convinced others that invasive post-mortems must stay and scanners will be a tool. The Crown Office mentions scanners(tool)being used in suspicious deaths. They are missing the point; scanners are meant to replace these horrific PMs and on request of a N.O.K.

England performs 10% of invasive post-mortems, which are limited, others are on request of N.O.K, look at the savings, respect for the deceased and the compassion to the families.

If this is NOT about gaining samples, there should be no problem in changing this Tissue Act & Cruel Law.

I advised the Lord Advocate of the evidence regarding Richard, she knows that horrific post-mortem shouldn't have taken place, with dozens of samples taken. No-one dies of skeletal muscle-taken too! Police advised-not suspicious! The money wasted and lives destroyed is disgraceful! NHS treating patients at home, (staff-shortage) there will be hundreds of deaths-NON SUSPICIOUS NOT CRIMINAL!

One cell is DNA of a WHOLE family, stored without consent, this surely is a breach of privacy legislation. We are advised to protect our identity; it is being stolen! Read about Henrietta Lacks: samples taken without consent, cloned and where all over the world. The family sued research company in 2023 and asked for profits to be returned. Many feel there is a black market here.

Shocking discovery of samples being purchased at over £1,000 in Scotland! This is a family's DNA! This is a scandal and proves the fact this is all about samples. Who is PROFITING FROM THIS? Why is this Government so reluctant to change this law? This is shocking and those in Government should be ashamed! How do you sleep at night? You are taking the lives of innocent families.

We discovered X-rays sent to America for results due to a lack of radiologists!

Changes:

- No Post-Mortems-Unless Murder/Suspicious! Many MSPs agree!
- The Crown/PF should ONLY deal with Murder/Suspicious Deaths (Crime-for Justice)
- Tissue Act: UK who changed over ten years ago due to a scandal & DNA
- Unannounced yearly checks undertakers/crematoriums/mortuaries etc

Scotland: thirteen organs found in a police facility freezer, had been there for 14 years, N.O.K unaware they had been taken! Can you imagine the shock? How do they recover? This is a scandal and there are many more.

I asked Pathologists if samples are given/sold to research companies and sent out-with this country. I was referred to PF- no answers. The Lord Advocate has advised YES, they are sent out-with Scotland when it is an unusual death, for specialists- NO specialists in Scotland/UK? There will be more than unusual death samples going out and will not be returned/DNA Sold/purchased? Samples of our son were in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow University & QEH "Nice to share what doesn't belong to you!" I had to fight to get all samples back! QEH wanted DNA to remain in

Aberdeen. There is something going on, an underworld of immoral acts (seems a supermarket for samples!)

Changes above would ease resources/save a fortune that could be used in NHS, homes for homeless, pensions, and makes sense no lives destroyed!

We vote people into Government they are public servants, seems more about furthering careers than bettering a country! There to run the country NOT run our lives, as advised by another the Government should NOT be involved in our lives nor taking away our human rights! This country is in some mess, there is no compassion, and that comes from the top. I requested meetings with ministers & First Minister and received several replies from Burials and Cremations team! How INSENSITIVE AND SHOWS NO COMPASSION! No time for the public! People should not be paying hundreds/thousands of pounds to remove ashes from a grave they already hold the deeds to!

Your body and loved ones belong to YOU!

Where are our Human Rights?

Anyone within this Government with any morals/compassion/conscience would change the above immediately! Lives of innocent families are being destroyed! Horror stories-shocking.

MSPs please support this Committee and make the changes, giving people their Human Rights and CHOICES! Richard lost his life due to negligence, was then mutilated, and samples stolen-NO JUSTICE! The suffering/stealing of DNA and a Government prepared to ignore all and turn a blind eye to it, you should be ashamed!

As a Mum advised all involved in this, had better have answers when they meet their Maker there will be no excuses.

This is mental cruelty!