Organ and Tissue Donation

You have a choice

Make it. Record it. Share it.
Scotland has an opt out system of organ and tissue donation

The opt out system means that if you are 16 or over and have not opted out of donation when you die, the law allows for the donation of certain organs and tissue for transplantation. The system does not apply to the following groups:

- Children (under 16s)
- Adults who lack the capacity to understand the new law
- Adults who have lived in Scotland for less than 12 months before their death

If a person in one of these groups dies in a way that means they could donate and they haven’t already recorded a donation decision, then their closest family member will be asked whether they wish to authorise donation.

The opt out system only applies to the donation of commonly donated organs and tissue such as the heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, liver, small bowel and tissue such as tendons, heart valves, patches of skin and the cornea (part of the eye).

You still have a choice if you want to be a donor or not when you die. Your choices are outlined on the following page.

Make it.

Everyone feels different about organ and tissue donation, but most people are aware of its life-saving and life-enhancing importance.

Not everyone who dies can donate their organs. Only around 1% of people die in a way that makes organ donation possible, so every opportunity for donation is very precious.
The choices you can make

Donation is a personal decision and you have a choice about whether or not you want to donate. You can:

• **Register to be a donor**
  You can choose to donate some or all of your organs and tissue. Recording your decision to be a donor will also mean that you agree to certain medical tests and procedures such as blood or urine samples or x-rays/ultrasound scans, etc. that may be carried out before your death as part of the donation process. Specialist nurses will speak to your family before these take place. Find out more at: https://www.organdonationscotland.org/testsandprocedures

• **Register not to be a donor**
  You can opt out of the donation of all organs and tissue.

• **Choose to do nothing**
  If you do nothing the law will assume that you agree to donate certain organs and tissue for transplantation. Your family and friends will still be asked your latest views to ensure donation doesn’t go ahead if you wouldn’t have wanted it to.

  If you do nothing it will also mean you agree to certain medical tests and procedures such as blood or urine samples or x-rays/ultrasound scans, etc. that may be carried out before your death as part of the donation process. Specialist nurses will speak to your family before these take place. Find out more at: https://www.organdonationscotland.org/testsandprocedures
Will your religion, faith or beliefs be respected?

Yes. You can record whether your religion, faith or beliefs are important on the NHS Organ Donor Register when you register and this will be considered as part of the donation discussion with your family.

They will be asked about your views to ensure that donation would not go ahead if it wasn’t what you wanted, and to ensure that it only goes ahead when it is in line with your faith or beliefs.

Find out more about faith and beliefs and organ and tissue donation at: https://www.organdonationscotland.org/faith-and-beliefs
How to record your decision

The quickest way to record your organ and tissue donation decision is on the NHS Organ Donor Register. You can do this by visiting our website www.organdonationscotland.org or calling 0300 123 23 23.

The NHS Organ Donor Register is a confidential and secure database of people who have recorded their donation decision, stating whether or not they want to donate their organs and tissue when they die. If organ or tissue donation becomes a possibility, specialist nurses will look at the register to see if a person had recorded a decision to be, or not to be, a donor.

Your name will not be on the NHS Organ Donor Register until you register a decision.

If you want to tell us your donation decision by post, please complete the form on page 7, fold it in half, moisten the edges to seal, and put it in the post. This is a Freepost address so no stamp is required. It will take approximately two days to process your registration after NHS Blood and Transplant receive your form.
Leave your family and friends in no doubt

Whatever you decide, you should also tell family and friends about your donation decision to help ensure that it is honoured.

Your family will always be approached by a specialist nurse if there is a possibility you could become a donor when you die. Specialist nurses, not involved with your care, will check the NHS Organ Donor Register to see if you have recorded a donation decision and will share this with your family and close friends, so they know what you wanted and to check if this was your latest view. Your family can also tell the specialist nurses about any particular requests or requirements you have, to ensure that organ and tissue donation only goes ahead in line with your faith or beliefs.
The choice is still yours. Please use this form to register your organ and tissue donation decision.

Please complete in CAPITAL LETTERS using a black ballpoint pen. *indicates that a field must be completed.

My details

Title
First Name*
Last Name*
Preferred Name
Date of Birth* _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _
Address*
Postcode*

My organ and tissue donation decision

**Yes** I want to donate

Please choose either option A or B:

A  **All** my organs and tissue

B  **Some** organs and tissue (please select yes or no for each organ or tissue type you wish or don’t wish to donate)

- Yes
- No

Kidneys
Heart
Liver
Lungs
Pancreas
Small Bowel
Eyes
Tissue

OR **No** I do not want to donate

By selecting NO, you are recording your decision NOT TO DONATE any of your organs and tissue on the NHS Organ Donor Register. You will receive written confirmation of this decision.

**Don’t forget to sign your form.** Whatever you decide, it is important to tell your family and friends to help ensure that it is honoured.

**Signature***

**Date***

Faith and beliefs

I would like NHS staff to speak to my family and anyone else appropriate about how organ and tissue donation can go ahead in line with my faith and beliefs.

- **Yes** - this is applicable to me
- **No** - this does not apply to me
- Prefer not to say

**Data protection and privacy assurance.** By completing and signing this form you are giving consent for your details to be held on the NHS Organ Donor Register. All information provided to NHS Blood and Transplant is used in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and all other relevant privacy and data protection laws. You can withdraw your consent at any time and your details will be removed from the register, to do this or find out more about your privacy rights please visit our website www.nhsbt.nhs.uk or call us on 0300 123 23 23.

Moisten edges to seal
To find out more and record your decision visit: www.organdonationscotland.org

If you can’t find what you need online or you are still unsure, you can call the NHS Organ Donor Line on: 0300 123 23 23

If you are hard of hearing please use our text relay service: 18001 0300 1232323 or text chat: 07860 03434

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