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Andrew Howlett
Assistant Clerk
to The Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
T3.40
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Date 9 January 2013
Your Ref PE1488
Our Ref FMcQ/CF
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Sent by e-mail

Dear Mr Howlett

Thank you for your letter of 13 December 2012, regarding Petition1453. I offer the following response to the questions raised in the Petition, which I hope is helpful information for the Committee.

- What previous approaches have proved to be successful, or unsuccessful, in increasing levels of organ donation and what steps are currently being taken, or considered, to increase levels of organ donation?

NHS Ayrshire and Arran has actively contributed towards significant increase in organ donation in Scotland over the last 5 years as part of a comprehensive local plan to meet the recommendations outlined in the Organ Donation Task Force Report (2008). This includes a 50% increase in national deceased organ donation, which was achieved at the end of the 2011/12 financial year.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran approves an annual work plan developed by the Organ Donation Committee. This outlines a range of initiatives, including local promotion and awareness activities to compliment national campaigns. The effectiveness of these activities are constantly evaluated and revised accordingly.

- Do you have any other views on what the petition seeks?

NHS Ayrshire and Arran Organ Donation Committee are of the view that the current system is effective as demonstrated by the continuous improvement in donation rates. The Committee is cited on the need to ensure that the integrity of the doctor – patient relationship is maintained. Patient autonomy and family considerations have been an essential part of the consent process to date. Any change to the current process would have to be carefully assessed for adverse impact.



In conclusion I welcome any debate that raises the value and importance of transplantation and increases the general public's knowledge of the subject.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McQueen (Mrs)
Executive Nurse Director