

Ministear airson Slàinte Poblach  
Minister for Public Health  
Micheal Matheson BPA  
Michael Matheson MSP

F/T: 0845 774 1741  
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Mr David Stewart MSP  
Convenor Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP



LEGACY 2014  
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES  
SCOTLAND

Ur faidhle/Your ref:  
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3 May 2013

Dear David,

## CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1453: OPT OUT SYSTEM OF ORGAN DONATION

Thank you for your email of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 requesting an update on the publication of the new Scottish plan for donation and transplantation. You have also asked for an update on the five year formal review of progress in 2013 as recommended by the Organ Donation Taskforce.

When the Taskforce published its second report in 2008 it stated that *“Implementation of the recommendations on Organs for Transplants is under way, promising at least a 50% increase in donation over five years. The recommendations already have widespread support and may make a change in the law unnecessary. Progress should be closely monitored and the question of changing to an opt out system revisited only if we need to.”*

You may be aware that at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, the UK as a whole achieved the 50% increase in organ donation that the Taskforce thought possible. In Scotland progress has been even more significant, with a 74.1% increase in donation. We have therefore exceeded the expectations of the Taskforce.

Our priority now is to maintain progress and continue to increase the rate of donation and transplantation. Although we have made good progress there is still much more that can be done and we need to focus on those strategies which we consider will have the biggest impact in donation rates.



The Scottish Transplant Group has been developing a new donation and transplantation plan for Scotland. This will be a companion-piece to the new UK Strategy which the four UK Health Departments have been developing together.

Both of these documents will consider where we have come from, the progress that has been made since the Taskforce, and the priorities for future action.

The Scottish plan will focus specifically on the health infrastructure in Scotland and those activities which may be unique to Scotland. Together the two documents will articulate our ambition to be amongst the best in the world for donation and transplantation, and they will set out how we aim to achieve that ambition.

An exact date for publication of these documents is yet to be confirmed however it is expected to be during the summer.

**Michael Matheson**