



<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Motion: Soft Opt Out Organ Donation
<b>Date:</b>	24th January, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a response which has been received from Mr. Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, in relation to the Council's motion on Soft Opt Out Organ Donation.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 2nd September, passed the following motion on Soft Opt Out Organ Donation, which had been proposed by Councillor Donnelly and seconded by Councillor Hargey:

“This Council will support the introduction of soft opt-out organ donation legislation here in the North which will follow the example led by the introduction of the same legislation in Wales (2015), Scotland and England (2020) and the calls from the Minister of Health in the South of Ireland, Simon Harris TD, for the same to be introduced there.”

A letter was forwarded to Mr. R. Pengelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, in relation to the motion.

3.2 A response has now been received from Mr. Pengelly, a copy of which is attached.

3.3 Mr. Pengelly advises that, following a detailed examination of all aspects of opt out systems, the Northern Ireland Assembly decided, in 2016, not to proceed with specific legislation to introduce an opt out system. He explains that, however, the Assembly, in recognition of the importance of promoting organ donation, passed legislation that placed a statutory duty on the Department of Health to promote transplantation and to increase awareness about transplantation and the donation of human organs.

3.4 The legislation also requires that the Department would provide an annual report about transplantation each year, and every five years the report must include the Department’s opinion, as to whether the legislation had been effective in promoting transplantation and any recommendations that it considered appropriate in amending the law so as to further promote transplantation.

3.5 In December 2018, the Department had also launched a Policy Statement giving effect to the requirement to promote organ donation and transplantation.

3.6 He reports that work on implementing the Policy Statement had recently gotten underway, with the establishment of an Organ Donation Steering Group to oversee its implementation, with arrangements also being made to recruit a Regional Organ Donation Promotion Manager/Co-Ordinator, whose role would include working with local Councils and to establish a sub-group for charities to further help to implement the Policy Statement.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

3.7 None

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

3.8 None

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health.