

FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
Edwin Poots MLA



Appendix 1

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Mr Barry Flynn
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Your Ref: 8F/FW
Our Ref: COR/464/2013
Date: \2 April 2013

Dear Barry

Thank you for your letter of 29 March, in which you affirm Belfast City Council's support for organ donation. I should be grateful if you would advise the Council that I am grateful to it for bringing its views on this important matter to my attention.

Organ donation is an issue that I have a particular interest in and I am keen to explore all options for increasing the number of organs available for transplantation. Although great improvements have been made in organ donation and transplantation in Northern Ireland in recent years, it is recognised that we need to do more as there are still around 200 people actively waiting on a transplant. It is therefore vital that we encourage those who have not already done so to join the organ donor register and to discuss their wishes with family and friends.

As you are aware, on 5 February 2013 I announced that I intend to seek the views of the public on organ donation, including the possible introduction of an opt-out scheme for Northern Ireland. The timings and details of this proposal are currently being developed and I intend to announce the way forward as soon as possible.

Once the findings of this work are known, I will then consider what the next steps will be for organ donation in Northern Ireland.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Please accept my best wishes.

Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety