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Analysis for Policy



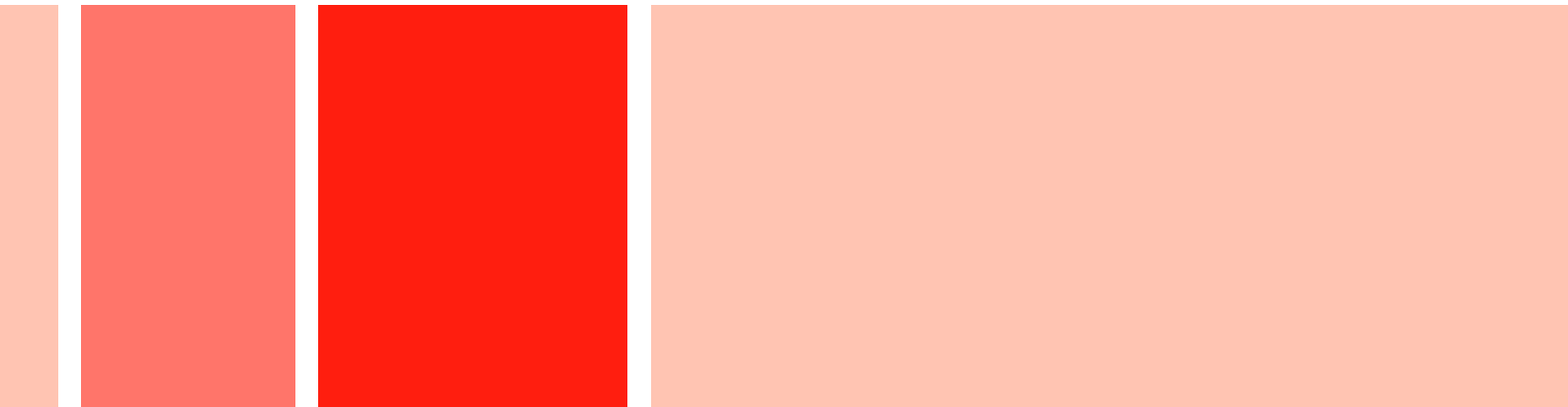
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Survey of public attitudes to organ donation: Wave 3 summary report



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Human Transplantation (Wales) Act received Royal Assent on 10 September 2013. The Act introduces a soft opt-out system for consent to deceased organ and tissue donation in Wales, which will come into effect on 1 December 2015.

A communications campaign is being undertaken by the Welsh Government before the new system comes into effect to ensure members of the public are fully informed about what the changes will mean and the choices they can make. In order to monitor the effectiveness of the campaign and inform its development, regular information is required on public awareness and understanding of organ donation law, and attitudes to changes in the legislation in Wales.

To meet these research needs, the Welsh Government has commissioned questions in the Wales Omnibus Survey, conducted by Beaufort Research Ltd. Data are being collected at regular intervals between June 2012 and June 2016.

1.2 About the report

Questions about organ donation were asked of 1,022 respondents who were interviewed as part of the November 2013 wave of the Wales Omnibus Survey, conducted by Beaufort Research Ltd. The survey sample is designed to be representative of the adult population resident in Wales aged 16 and over. Most survey fieldwork took place between 15 and 26 November 2013, with a few interviews conducted after this date (all prior to the launch of the new Organ Donation Wales website¹ on 1 December 2013, and the associated public relations and advertising activity that form part of the two year communications campaign).

This summary report is a factual representation of the results, and presents findings about public attitudes, awareness and understanding of the organ donation system – it does not examine causal links. Where possible, findings are compared with the surveys carried out in June 2012 (wave 1) and June 2013 (wave 2).

A full report with additional analyses will be published following wave 4 of the survey, which is due to take place in June 2014 (report to follow at a later date).

¹ www.organdonationwales.org | www.rhoiorganau.org

2. Awareness and understanding of changes to the organ donation system

Respondents were asked, unprompted, if they were aware of changes that will be taking place to the current system of organ donation. In total, around six out of ten respondents (59 per cent) reported that they were aware of changes. This compares with 57 per cent reporting they were aware of proposed changes in wave 2, and 53 per cent in wave 1 (Table 2.1, in Annex A).

Awareness of changes being made to the organ donation system was highest in North Wales (65 per cent) and lowest in Cardiff & South East Wales (52 per cent). Awareness tended to be lower among:

- 16 to 34 year olds (41 per cent); and
- Respondents from C2DE social groups (53 per cent).

Of those who were aware of changes being made to the organ donation system, around three quarters (73 per cent) said that their main source of awareness was a TV news show or other programme.

Respondents who were aware of changes were asked, unprompted, how they think the system might change. Around three quarters (76 per cent) said that it would change to an opt-out system, or one of presumed consent.

3. Awareness of the detail of the law for changing the organ donation system

Respondents were shown a description of the new system of organ donation and asked if they had previously seen or heard anything about it. In total, six out of ten respondents (60 per cent) had seen or heard something about the new system. This compares with 58 per cent who had seen or heard something about the proposed changes in waves 1 and 2 (Table 3.1).

Awareness of the detail of the law was highest in Mid & West Wales, where two thirds of respondents (67 per cent) had seen or heard something about the proposal, and was lowest in Cardiff & South East Wales (48 per cent). Awareness tended to be lower among:

- 16 to 34 year olds (39 per cent); and
- Respondents from C2DE social groups (54 per cent).

4. Attitudes towards changes to the organ donation system

Respondents were asked whether they were in favour of, or against, the change in legislation, or whether they needed more information to decide. In wave 3, 57 per cent were in favour (compared with 61 per cent in wave 2 and 49 per cent in wave 1), while 16 per cent were against (compared with 17 per cent in wave 2 and 22 per cent in wave 1). The remainder needed more information to decide or didn't know (Table 4.1).

Support for the change in legislation was highest in North Wales and Mid & West Wales (two thirds of respondents in favour), and lowest in the Valleys and Cardiff & South East Wales (around half of respondents in favour).

Support for the change in legislation was highest among 35 to 54 year olds (61 per cent in favour). Support was also higher among respondents from ABC1 social groups (64 per cent in favour) than respondents from C2DE social groups (52 per cent in favour). There was also a difference by gender, with 61 per cent of men being in favour compared with 53 per cent of women.

The most common reason given for being in favour of the change in legislation was that more lives could be saved. The most common reason given for being against the change was that it removes choice from the individual.

5. Behaviour under soft opt-out system of organ donation

Respondents were asked what they think they will do when the new soft opt-out system of organ donation is introduced. In wave 3, around seven out of ten respondents (68 per cent) would opt in or take no action (compared with 68 per cent in wave 2 and 63 per cent in wave 1), while 15 per cent would opt out (compared with 20 per cent in wave 2 and 19 per cent in wave 1).

Across all regions, a majority of respondents reported that they would opt in or take no action. However, the proportion of respondents that reported they would opt out ranged from 11 per cent (Mid & West Wales) to 25 per cent (Valleys).

A greater proportion of respondents aged 55 years and over thought they would opt out (20 per cent) than those younger than 55 years (13 per cent).

6. Statements about the soft opt-out system

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the following statements (two positively worded and two negatively worded) about the changes to the organ donation system.

Positively worded statements	Negatively worded statements
'The proposed soft opt-out system for Wales will result in more lives being saved'	'Organ donation is a gift which the soft opt-out system will take away'
'The soft opt-out system maintains freedom of choice because anyone can opt out from organ donation if they want to'	'The soft opt-out system gives the government too much control'

6.1 Positively worded statements about the soft opt-out system

In wave 3, around three quarters of respondents (74 per cent) agreed that 'the proposed soft opt-out system for Wales will result in more lives being saved'. This compares with 75 per cent in wave 2 and 68 per cent in wave 1 (Table 6.1).

Similarly, three quarters of respondents (75 per cent) in wave 3 agreed that 'the soft opt-out system maintains freedom of choice because anyone can opt out from organ donation if they want to'. This compares with 76 per cent in wave 2 and 67 per cent in wave 1 (Table 6.2).

6.2 Negatively worded statements about the soft opt-out system

In wave 3, one third of respondents (33 per cent) agreed that 'organ donation is a gift which the soft opt-out system will take away'. This compares with 33 per cent in wave 2 and 38 per cent in wave 1 (Table 6.3).

In wave 3, around three out of ten respondents (31 per cent) agreed that 'the soft opt-out system gives the government too much control'. This compares with 32 per cent in wave 2 and 42 per cent in wave 1 (Table 6.4).

7. Role of the family in organ donation

Respondents were asked 'Have you ever discussed your wishes regarding organ donation after your death with a family member?'. In wave 3, four out of ten respondents (40 per cent) said they had. This compares with 42 per cent in wave 2, and 38 per cent in wave 1 (Table 7.1).

Respondents were also asked 'In the event of your death do you think a family member would know your wishes in respect of organ donation?'. In wave 3, 54 per cent of respondents thought a family member would know their wishes. This compares with 61 per cent in wave 2, and 62 per cent in wave 1 (Table 7.2).

8. Statements about the role of the family

Respondents were read out four statements (two of which are true, and two are false) about the role of the family in organ donation under the new soft opt-out system where the deceased has not opted out. They were then asked to what extent they thought the statements were true or false.

True statements	False statements
'If the family is in distress over the decision to donate, clinicians will not proceed with organ donation'	'The family will have no role to play in the organ donation process'
'The family can provide evidence that the deceased objected to donating their organs but did not get around to registering during their lifetime'	'The family can override the wishes of the deceased'

These questions were asked to gauge public understanding of this area of the legislation, and to monitor over time. These questions were not asked in wave 1.

8.1 True statements about the role of the family

Over half of the respondents (54 per cent) in wave 3 correctly thought it was true that 'the family can provide evidence that the deceased objected to donating their organs but did not get around to registering during their lifetime'. This compares with 58 per cent of respondents in wave 2 (Table 8.1).

Around half of respondents (48 per cent) in wave 3 correctly thought it was true that 'if the family is in distress over the decision to donate, clinicians will not proceed with organ donation'. This compares with 51 per cent of respondents in wave 2 (Table 8.2).

8.2 False statements about the role of the family

Around four out of ten respondents (43 per cent) in wave 3 correctly thought it was false that 'the family will have no role to play in the organ donation process'. This compares with 48 per cent of respondents in wave 2 (Table 8.3).

In wave 3, 45 per cent of respondents correctly thought it was false that 'the family can override the wishes of the deceased'. This compares with 46 per cent of respondents in wave 2 (Table 8.4).

Annex A: Tables

A.1 Sample sizes and rounding

All tables are based on the following sample sizes:

- June 2012: 1,006 respondents
- June 2013: 1,015 respondents
- November 2013: 1,022 respondents

Percentages in the tables may not sum to exactly 100 per cent due to rounding.

A.2 Awareness and understanding of changes to the organ donation system

Table 2.1: Are you aware of any changes that will be taking place to the current organ donation system?

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Yes	53	57	59
No	46	41	38
<i>Don't know</i>	1	1	3

In waves 1 and 2, respondents were asked 'Are you aware of any proposed changes to the current organ donation system?'

A.3 Awareness of the detail of the law for changing the organ donation system

Table 3.1: Before today, have you seen or heard anything about this proposal at all?
(Respondents shown description of the new system)

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Yes	58	58	60
No	41	41	38
<i>Don't know</i>	1	1	2

A.4 Attitudes towards changes to the organ donation system

Table 4.1: Which of these statements about changes to the organ donation system in Wales best reflects your view?^a

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
I am in favour of this change in legislation	49	61	57
I am against this change in legislation	22	17	16
I need more information to decide	21	16	17
<i>Don't know</i>	8	6	10

In waves 1 and 2, respondents were asked 'Which of these statements about proposed changes to the organ donation system in Wales best reflects your view?'

A.5 Behaviour under soft opt-out system of organ donation

Table 5.1: When the new system of opting out is introduced, which of the following best describes what you think you will do?

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Opt in or no action	63	68	68
Opt out	19	20	15
<i>Don't know</i>	18	12	16

In waves 1 and 2, respondents were asked 'If the new system of opting out was introduced, which of the following best describes what you think you would do?'

A.6 Statements about the soft opt-out system

Positively worded statements about the soft opt-out system

Table 6.1: 'The proposed soft opt-out system for Wales will result in more lives being saved'

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Agree	68	75	74
Neutral	25	19	21
Disagree	7	6	4

Table 6.2: 'The soft opt-out system maintains freedom of choice because anyone can opt out from organ donation if they want to'

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Agree	67	76	75
Neutral	20	15	18
Disagree	13	9	7

Negatively worded statements about the soft opt-out system

Table 6.3: 'Organ donation is a gift which the soft opt-out system will take away'

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Agree	38	33	33
Neutral	28	29	31
Disagree	33	38	36

Table 6.4: 'The soft opt-out system gives the government too much control'

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Agree	42	32	31
Neutral	22	22	25
Disagree	35	46	44

A.7 Role of the family in organ donation

Table 7.1: Have you ever discussed your wishes regarding organ donation after your death with a family member?

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Yes	38	42	40
No	62	57	60

Table 7.2: In the event of your death do you think a family member would know your wishes in respect of organ donation?

Response	June 2012 (%)	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
Yes	62	61	54
No	34	35	41
<i>Don't know</i>	5	3	5

A.8 Statements about the role of the family

True statements about the role of the family

Table 8.1: 'The family can provide evidence that the deceased objected to donating their organs but did not get around to registering during their lifetime'

Response	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
True	58	54
False	19	21
<i>Don't know</i>	23	25

Table 8.2: 'If the family is in distress over the decision to donate, clinicians will not proceed with organ donation'

Response	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
True	51	48
False	26	25
<i>Don't know</i>	23	27

False statements about the role of the family

Table 8.3: 'The family will have no role to play in the organ donation process'

Response	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
True	34	35
False	48	43
<i>Don't know</i>	18	21

Table 8.4: 'The family can override the wishes of the deceased'

Response	June 2013 (%)	November 2013 (%)
True	33	32
False	46	45
<i>Don't know</i>	20	23

Annex B: Methodology

The Wales Omnibus Survey sample is designed to be representative of the population resident in Wales aged 16 years and over. The unit of sampling is Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and 69 interviewing points throughout the Wales are selected with probability proportional to resident population, after stratification by unitary authority and social grade.

Within each sampling point, demographic quota controls of age and social class within sex are employed for the selection of respondents. Quotas are set to reflect the individual demographic profile of each selected point.

The data have been weighted by age group within gender within unitary authority grouping to give each cell its correct incidence within the Wales total derived from the results of the 2011 Census.

A fresh sample of interviewing locations and individuals are selected for each survey and no more than one person per household is interviewed. Interviews are conducted face to face in the homes of respondents utilising CAPI (Computer Aided Personal Interviewing) technology.

Most survey fieldwork was conducted between 15 and 26 November 2013, with a few interviews conducted after this date. A total of 1,022 face-to-face interviews were conducted and analysed for this survey.

Definition of regions

Table B.1, below, shows which unitary authorities in Wales make up the regions used in the analysis.

Table B.1: Definition of regions

Region	Unitary authorities	
North Wales	Isle of Anglesey Gwynedd Conwy	Denbighshire Flintshire Wrexham
Mid & West Wales	Ceredigion Powys	Pembrokeshire Carmarthenshire
Swansea Bay	Swansea Neath Port Talbot	Bridgend
Valleys	Rhondda Cynon Taf Merthyr Tydfil	Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent
Cardiff & South East Wales	Vale of Glamorgan Cardiff Newport	Torfaen Monmouthshire

Definition of social grades

Table B.2, below, provides a definition of the social grade classification used in the analysis.

Table B.2: Definition of social grades

Social grade	Definition
ABC1	
A	High managerial, administrative or professional
B	Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional
C1	Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional
C2DE	
C2	Skilled manual workers
D	Semi and unskilled manual worker
E	State pensioners, casual or lowest grade workers, unemployed with state benefits only

Sub-sample sizes

Table B.3, below, shows the number of respondents for each sub-sample (weighted and unweighted) used in the analysis.

Table B.3: Sub-sample numbers for region, age, gender and social grade

Sub-sample	Unweighted sample	Weighted sample
Region		
North Wales	233	230
Mid & West Wales	161	174
Swansea Bay	163	174
Valleys	201	179
Cardiff & South East Wales	264	265
Age		
16 – 34 years	288	299
35 – 54 years	302	334
55+ years	432	389
Gender		
Men	449	497
Women	573	525
Social grade		
ABC1	435	429
C2DE	584	591