

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on Give and take? Human bodies in medicine and research between April 2010 and July 2010. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Alex Smith

Question 1

None that I can think off, although donating a whole brain may be an issue. I have still not come to a definite decision on whether or not I would donate MY brain.

Question 2

Yes. The brain.

Question 3

Only the obvious. I should not like to donate any part of my body which, as a result, put my health or life at risk. When I am dead - I don't care.

Question 4

I was a blood donor for forty years. There probably was a financial cost of, for example, travelling to a donating centre. There was minor physical discomfort (until my last donation). These were irrelevant.

Question 5

I consider the risks too great for me. Others may have different view.

Question 6

It is wrong to provide human body materials for any reason other than medical/scientific research or for medical treatment. Providing, for example, human bodies or body parts for exhibition purposes is wrong.

Question 7

I would be willing to provide any part of my body (apart from my brain) for medical/scientific research or to treat another's medical condition. Treatment first, research second, any other reason not at all.

Question 8

At present I should not be willing to participate in first-in-human trials.

Question 9

No

Question 10

No comment.

Question 11

I am probably opposed to compensation for human bodily material donations. If there were significant costs to be incurred in donating, I guess I would not mind

those expenses being defrayed.

Question 12

I have mixed feelings about this. My "gut" response is that everyone should be willing to donate human bodily materials, certainly after death, but I am aware that I do not want my brain to be donated, although I have no objection to parts of my brain tissue being used. I know that I am being inconsistent. I can't help it.

Question 13

No.

Question 14

Keeping people alive is more pressing than keeping people comfortable or beautiful or strong.

Question 15

No.

Question 16

I suppose societal pressure or persuasion are incentives but I am opposed to financial or material incentives.

Question 17

I suspect that I would refuse to participate in donation if I were incentivised. I was proud of the awards I received for donating blood but they were not the reason I was a donor and I did not stop donating after receiving my badges.

Question 18

No. Treatment should never be related to willingness to donate.

Question 19

Yes, although this is not simple. Most blood donors incur some financial costs in donating. These should not be compensated. If, for example, a tissue donor required significant time away from work and incurred a loss of earnings, these should probably be repaid. A bit like jury duty, I suppose. The NHS does not have unlimited funds. If some of its budget is used to pay donors, other forms of treatment will suffer, so donors should not generally be compensated. Time, discomfort and inconvenience should not be compensated.

Question 20

Stem-cell research and other ways of growing organs may increase supply and ultimately reduce demand. My knowledge of the science is not good enough for me to express a view on how effective they will be. I hope that they will be effective.

Question 21

No

Question 22

I don't know.

Question 23

I am not sure.

Question 24

Of course. I should never make a decision for any member of my family.

Question 25

If a person has made his/her wishes known there should be no right of veto.

Question 26

Society.

Question 27

No

Question 28

I don't know.

Question 29

Complete control. If someone is willing to have his/her bodily material used for transplant but not for research, that should be accepted. If someone wishes his/her material given only to particular racial group or similar I think these wishes have to be accepted, no matter how disgusting I find those people to be.

Question 30

No