

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.

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How far should we as a society go in encouraging or even incentivising people to provide material?

We should go far. There is nothing "coercive" about offering payment or incentives. The term is misused. The very real and tangible benefits outweigh the intangible and abstract concern about commercializing or devaluing humanity.

What control should a person providing material have over its future use?

Given rapid progress in technology, it will be difficult to write contracts/consent forms in a way that anticipates the potential future uses of the tissue. Therefore, donors ought to have limited or no control unless granting some degree of control is necessary to elicit donations.