

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.

20th April, 2010

**Professor Dame Ann Marilyn Strathern, DBE, FBA
Nuffield Council on Bioethics,**

**28 Bedford Square
London
WC1B 3JS**

Dear Professor Strathern,

ORGAN DONATION

I heard the problem of the shortage of organ donors discussed on The Today Programme this morning.

Forgive me for the following brief and over-simplistic solution.

Each application form filled in by a person wishing to join a Doctor's Surgery has within that form, the following:-

A brief paragraph regarding donation of organs... including what is meant by becoming a donor and how much you would be contributing to society should you decide to put your name down.

One is then asked to sign and give your permission for your doctor or consultant to search for an organ for yourself in the case of an emergency.

This is followed by the question, "Do you give your permission to have your own organs utilised?"

A further question could ask whether, if you are a parent of children, you give permission for their organs to be used.

If the person is then found to have signed up only for the receipt of organs, at their first surgery appointment, they could be gently questioned as to the reasons why they feel the right to benefit but not to give - or where they imagine organs would come from if others were not prepared to offer their own for the benefit of all. (Couched a little less heavily I suppose - basically, an appeal to their better nature.)

Dare I say it; those that are signed up as donors be given preferential treatment should the need arise. I know this is not an acceptable conclusion - but perhaps understandable although not a lofty one!

Regards,

Judith Rowley (Mrs)

Judith Rowley

P.S. Similar forms left in the Surgery Waiting Room
- or circulated to existing 'customers'.)