

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.

Richard Mountford

QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Question 1

ANSWER:

No

Question 2

ANSWER:

No

Question 3

ANSWER:

No

Question 4

ANSWER:

With appropriate procedures, including counselling for relatives, I think any initial distress caused will be more than compensated for by feeling good about a decision to donate.

Question 30

ANSWER:

I think most people are quite happy to have their bodies used for transplantation or medical research after their death, but don't get round to registering or filling in a donor card, for any number of reasons: people are busy or they do not like to think about death or 'tempt fate'. However, that doesn't mean they object to their bodies being used. An opt-out or presumed consent system would save lives and should be brought in as soon as possible. Anyone who objected to their bodies being used could and presumably would take the trouble to register their objection.