

# Caroline Sheikh submission of 20 October 2022

## PE1911/BB: Review of Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 as it relates to post-mortems

I am writing with regard to obtaining permission from next of kin to keep tissue from their loved ones. I am in the medical profession and find this unethical, unlawful and undignified. Most people will be in favour of clinical research but surely it is the choice of families who are grieving to have the say. Slicing pieces of tissue, keeping them, and passing them on from a much loved person is a step back to a generation where unauthorisation was accepted and typical of the times. Surely empathy and respect should be the priority of modern medical practice. I am sad to learn of this being accepted in a forward moving health service.

Consent is preserving dignity of the death of a human being and should be a high priority, and not taken for granted. I am in touch with a mother who has lost a child and is torn apart with grief, only to become aware of what is just the norm to the higher authorities who are at the helm of this practice. I ask for this law to be changed in line with the many advances in medicine. Consent should be sought at all times. It is a human request from a grieving relative, for a human being. It should not be overlooked. Other countries have consent as law. Why can't it be the same in Scotland?

Bear in mind the grief that a parent has to bear when the sudden death of a child or a loved one happens. The law should be changed. Research is vital for medical advancement but preserving dignity should not be lost. Please change the law.