

Petitioner submission of 27 April 2022

PE1911/L – Review of Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 as it relates to post-mortems

Richard's law

The law/procedures & policies need to be changed.

It is not acceptable to be removing the brains, throats & tongues from the deceased. There is certainly no respect or dignity given to the deceased or their next of kin...**this is butchering**.

I was advised by a world, renowned medical professional to start a campaign to have the law/policies & procedures changed, others in the medical profession are shocked at what does go on in post-mortems and regarding tissue samples being retained for research without consent. Again, they advised things need to change. Everyone should go out of this world intact with **ALL** of their body parts and tissue samples! Unless consent has been given by the next of kin for research, it is truly a disgrace the things that are going on and all without consent.

I am now left with the nightmares of what happened to my son, I will never get over this and I will never forgive the Procurator Fiscal for allowing this type of post-mortem to be performed, which in the opinion of others was a training exercise carried out by the pathologist. Oddly enough there was a student present at our meeting with the pathologist.

I trusted the Procurator Fiscal with my very precious son and look at what they allowed in this PM, would they have had this performed on their own...I doubt it. I was under the impression this PM was a grant & view as this was recorded on the police report. My son was butchered there is no other word for it. It was only his arms and legs that weren't touched.

Where Procurator Fiscal need post-mortems performed, they should be done by Scanner were possible, scanners are more than 99% accurate – or a very good reason should be put forward to the next of kin for any other type of PM. If a PM is performed it should only be on the Torso only along with toxicology, unless next of kin give consent to anything else. It is not acceptable to mutilate the body of someone's loved one.

Any samples taken should automatically be offered back to the next of kin, and the next of kin should have the **choice to collect them personally if they wish.** Many people may decline the samples, at that point they can give consent for them to be used for research, but we should **always be given the CHOICE.** I am not against research, but I am against the way this is being done....it is dishonest & stealing, and changing the law/policies & procedures is the only way going forward to stop these barbaric procedures.

For someone to tell a grieving mother that the samples, of **her child** belongs to **no particular person is the cruellest thing I have ever heard, and I will never forget this**, then being told they are part of medical records. The deceased do not need medical records, when investigating the cause of death that should be recorded and the samples should be returned to the next of kin. Medical Records advised they **do not** keep tissue samples they only retain paperwork. This is an excuse to hold onto samples for research. Richard's brain samples were in Edinburgh and the rest of the samples were in Glasgow. Do you have any idea what this does to the next of kin and family.

The PM was performed in Glasgow in June 2019, brain samples were in Edinburgh in November 2020 – that says it all. I have asked the Procurator Fiscal if I have all the parts/samples of my son back...I am still awaiting a reply. The rest of his brain could still be in Edinburgh?

I have heard many stories recently regarding other families and they are horrifying!

These samples **DO NOT** belong to the Procurator Fiscal nor Pathologists – they belong to the next of kin of the deceased. You have no idea the added level of pain all of the above brings on top of the grief of losing someone especially your child, it takes the pain to other level. Samples being retained and horrific PM's being performed.

Pathologists are being given carte blanche to samples, as they are covered by the law. This law needs to be changed, and like any other job, you are accountable for your actions and some sort of restriction should be put in place for any pathologist helping themselves to body parts/samples without consent from the next of kin.

We are given the choice to vote, free speech etc as part of human rights, where are our rights here?

Where are the rights of the deceased?

There should also be an opt out of PM's – if you do not wish one performed as there is with Organ Donation, the cause "Uncertain" should be recorded on the death certificate. Again, listening to others their loved ones have gone through PM's and have the wrong cause of death on their certificates....so pointless putting someone through a PM. This is all in the name of research which is wrong unless consent is given.

Would you want all of the above performed on your loved one?

The general public are now being made aware of what is happening, and **we need the support of all MSPs to change this law/policies & procedures,** making Scotland a better place to live in and to make us proud to be Scottish. We need to get rid of the dishonesty and these horrific PM's.

The above is just horrific, it is like something from a horror movie and there is no excuse for what is being performed on bodies. My own life is now ruined by the nightmares of what was performed on my son, and it was only because I went digging that I discovered the extent of this invasive post mortem that was performed on my child. These pathologists don't lose sleep due to the nightmares they have caused. **They wouldn't perform this on their own loved ones – believe me**

I cannot have another mother/family going through this unbearable heartache & pain – enough is enough this have to change. It is a bad day when even medical professionals feel the same.

A person is granted Power of Attorney, acts on the wishes of that person. Yet a Next of Kin has no rights regarding their deceased loved one – what is the point in the word next of kin when it appears to be meaningless. What kind of world are we living in where people are afraid of what will happen to them when they die, as people can help themselves into their inner body parts/samples and their loved ones have no say.

Please help to change the law/policies & procedures to prevent other families suffering the pain & grief that we are.