

SEEKING YOUR VIEW

I am a voter in your constituency, who has an interest in kidney disease and related renal matters. I would like to ask you to read the information in the box beneath, then answer the questions that follow overleaf. This is a short questionnaire, but the issues are vital to me. I would ask that you then return the form to me at the address shown in the box to the right of this paragraph. Thank you

Between 2-3,000,000 people in the UK, suffer from some form of Kidney Disease (CKD). There are 5 progressive stages of CKD. Stage 5 is End Stage Renal Failure (ESRF).

ESRF patients number 40,000 but the number will double within 10 years. ESRF patients cannot live without either Dialysis (three days a week for life), or a Transplant.

Dialysis conducted in renal units is overstretched and patients are being turned away. Those patients who are treated are denied basic human rights, such as the choice of available treatment options, and freedom to travel within the country away from their base renal unit. This can prevent a patient working, taking a holiday or visiting relatives.

Transplantation is the “gold standard” treatment, but only 5 kidneys are transplanted a day on average. Of the 20,000 dialysis patients, only 5,500 have been placed on the Transplant waiting list and 400 of these die each year whilst waiting. There is a shortage of organs, transplant surgeons, operating theatre time, and theatre staff. There is an absence of transplantation culture in NHS hospitals. **Transplantation is a more cost effective treatment than dialysis.**

Transplanted kidney organs may be cadaveric (from the deceased) or living (from friends or relatives). Relatives refusing permission even though the deceased donor joined the national organ donor register or carried a donor card prevent 42% of cadaver donations. Because we have 2 kidneys but can live normally with 1, living donation is possible and indeed very successful. Currently, strangers may not donate live organs altruistically, although we expect this to change with new legislation. On an average day in the United Kingdom 1500 people die. That means each day 3000 potentially life saving kidneys are either cremated or buried.

Other European countries have more successful transplant programmes than the UK and Spain has been so successful that they no longer have a waiting list.

*Information taken from the kidney patients' charity
The National Kidney Federation -Charity Number 1106735
www.kidney.org.uk*

**Please answer the questions shown overleaf
so that I might understand your views on these matters.**

Don't forget to add your name, Constituency and Party at the bottom of the next page

PTO

