

Donation Ethics Committee: Further Information

Further to the recent information we sent you about the formation of the Donation Ethics Committee, I thought it might be helpful to give you some further information about the current situation as I have received a number of requests for more information. Please appreciate that these comments are my own understanding of the situation as it is at present; details are very likely to change in the future and my understanding may not be fully correct.

- The establishment of the Donation Ethics Committee was recommended by the Task Force. The Committee will be chaired by Sir Ian Kennedy and hosted by the Academy. The committee will be independent and will, therefore, be setting its own terms of reference.
- Membership: as you will know from the previous circular, applications are invited from a wide spectrum of people but I do hope that many transplant clinicians will apply.
- The Committee is likely to consider ethical issues relating not only to donation but may well extend this to all aspects of transplantation (including the recommendations of the Task Force itself).
- It is unlikely to provide an instant and 24/7 service to answer all ethical issues.
- The relationship between the Committee and Ethics Committees of other local and national bodies is uncertain.
- It is likely to be some months before the Committee is fully operational.

I hope these pointers are helpful.

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