Geraldine McCluskey Not all people are aware that no-one can consent on behalf of a person who is over 18, and that includes people with a learning disability.

And parents in particular, and carers, have grown up with these people with learning disabilities, having made decisions for them all throughout their childhood and then once they turn 18, they still feel that they are the key person who can make decisions on that person's behalf.

And so I think doctors need to be very aware that, yes, there is a role for the carer in the consent process in bringing them on board to help facilitate the decision making process, but that they can't ultimately consent on behalf of the individual themselves.