



## **Liam McArthur MSP**

Liberal Democrat MSP for the Orkney Islands

**What people thought  
about my idea for a new law  
about assisted dying for  
terminally ill adults**

**Easy read booklet**

# Who I am and what this booklet is about



My name is **Liam McArthur**. I am a **Member of the Scottish Parliament** (called an **MSP** for short).

The Scottish people decide who is an MSP by voting for them in elections.

I am a **politician**. **Politicians** are people who make decisions and laws for the country you live in.



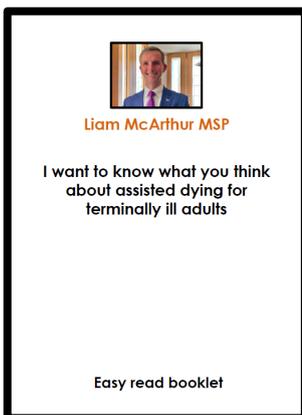
The **Scottish Parliament** makes laws in Scotland.

MSPs can suggest ideas to change laws in Scotland.

My idea is about **assisted dying** for **terminally ill** adults.

**Assisted dying** means you have help to end your life.

**Terminally ill** means you will never get better from an illness. The illness will lead to your death.



You can read more about my idea in another Easy Read booklet called **I want to know what you think about assisted dying for terminally ill adults**



Last year I asked people what they thought about my idea.

This booklet tells you what people thought about my idea.

# Replies about my idea



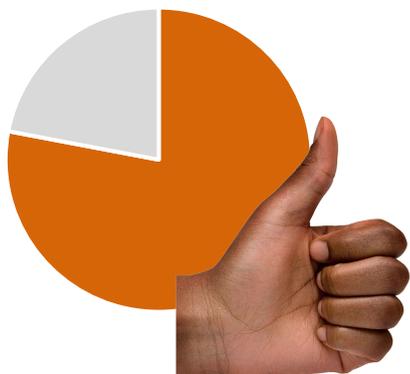
I gave people from 23 September 2021 until 22 December 2021 to tell me what they thought about my idea.

I got more than 14,000 replies.

This is more replies than an MSP has ever had to an idea for a new law.

81 replies were from organisations and the rest were from individual people.

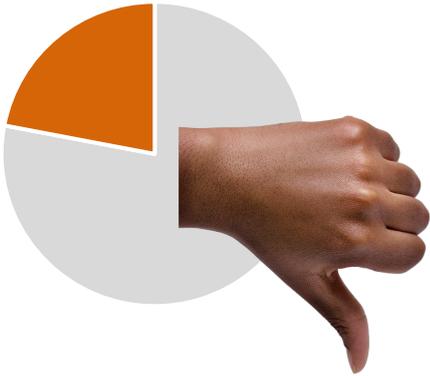
# What people thought



Most people – just over three quarters – thought it was a very good idea.

Lots of these people thought

- it would be kind to let adults who are terminally ill have a safe assisted death if they wanted it.
- it would stop their pain and suffering.
- assisted dying should be allowed in Scotland because it's allowed in some other countries.



A smaller number of people – just under a quarter – did not think assisted dying was a good idea.

Some people thought

- it was wrong for a person to take their own life, or to get help to end their life.
- it wouldn't be safe because you wouldn't know for sure if the person was making the choice for themselves.
- older people or disabled people might feel worried about other people trying to choose for them. They might feel less important.

# What happens next



I now have 1 month to get other MSPs to support my idea.

I need at least 18 MSPs to support my idea.

This must include MSPs from at least 2 of the biggest political parties. Each MSP belongs to a political party.

The biggest political parties at the moment are

- the **Scottish National Party**
- the **Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**
- **Scottish Labour**

and

- the **Scottish Green Party**.

If at least 18 MSPs support my idea and the Scottish Government doesn't say it will make the law in the next 2 years, I can write a **bill** about assisted dying for adults who are terminally ill in Scotland.

A **bill** is a document that could become a law if the MSPs agree with it.

The **detail** of the bill would be looked at very carefully by other MSPs in the Scottish Parliament. **Detail** means the words in the bill.

The MSPs would ask lots of people and organisations what they think of the bill. The MSPs can suggest changes to the words in the bill.



Then all MSPs would decide if the bill should become a new law or not.

# Contact



If you have any questions, you can write to me at this address

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**The Scottish Parliament**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH99 1SP**



Please send me your address so I can reply to you.



Or you can call this phone number  
**0131 348 5815**

or send an email to this address

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If you want to call in **British Sign Language** (also called **BSL**) go to this website

[contactscotland-bsl.org](http://contactscotland-bsl.org)



You can contact me in any language including Gaelic or BSL.