

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to enable competent adults who are terminally ill to be provided at their request with assistance to end their life.

The consultation runs from 23 September 2021 to 22 December 2021.

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer.

All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response.

Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded.

Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here:

[Consultation Document](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice attached to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

No Response

About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.
Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

Please provide your Full Name or the name of your organisation. (Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number.

We will not publish these details.

Aim and Approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I had to watch my mother suffer excruciating daily pain with no hope of relief or end to her suffering, despite access to a range of pain relief options and also trying experimental treatments offered by specialist nhs consultants etc.

It is unimaginable to experience years of watching your mother in daily pain with no hope of relief (except

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death), your mother beg to be put out of her misery, having you hide her medications after finding her pretending to take them but secretly hiding them under her pillow, to find a kitchen knife under her pillow, the list goes on and on ..

Heartbreaking does not come anywhere near the emotion involved. Guilt of not being able to be brave enough to help her end her suffering despite the fact that I was in my 20s with two little babies to care for, I couldn't put them or myself in jeopardy. Feeling forever selfish, broken-hearted and cowardly for not being there for her in her time of need. This was 32 years ago and never leaves my head or heart.

In addition recently I had have to watch my partner receive terminal illness news with no hope of reprieve and to see him face this courageously daily through endless treatment etc but hanging over him was the unacceptable fact that he would not have any say, apart from making plans to take his own life (which he did plan out) before the final days of indignity and relentless pain that he would be facing.

Unfortunately he was unable to have his control over his final days as covid took him a few previous months before his expected time.

No-one should have the right to tell anyone else that they need to live in daily physical pain with loss of personal dignity and accept how courageous it is for anyone to make their own decision to end their life and leave their loved ones.

Yes we need protection to ensure people are protected and not exploited for financial gain etc. But surely there can be safeguards put in place earlier whilst cognitive decision making is undeniably apparent, rather than leaving the scenario until people are under heavy medication levels etc.

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Legislation needs to be in place to ensure safe guarding is in place.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed process for assisted dying as set out at section 3.1 in the consultation document (Step 1 - Declaration, Step 2 - Reflection period, Step 3 - Prescribing/delivering)?

Fully supportive

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your views of the safeguards proposed in section 1.1 of the consultation document?

Fully supportive

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of a body being responsible for reporting and collecting data?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response, including whether you think this should be a new or existing body (and if so, which body) and what data you think should be collected.

Independent body should be in place to ensure each decision is overseen by a neutral party with no allegiance to any religious body or any personal view expressed

Q6. Please provide comment on how a conscientious objection (or other avenue to ensure voluntary participation by healthcare professionals) might best be facilitated.

If people who wish to take the step of putting in place details of how and when they wish to end their suffering there should be an independent body that that application is made to.
This body would review all health and any other relevant records, appointment local representative to meet with individual and their loved ones (as identified by individual) and medical representatives who are involved in individuals care plan.
If medical professionals involved in individuals care do not support a persons right to end their lives they can excuse themselves from being involved in discussion.
If none of the medical professionals involved with an individual feel able to support individual agreed right to end life they should excuse themselves.
Local teams of medical professionals who feel able to support an agreed outcome should then be put in place in contact with individual to discuss and agree plans.
Individuals needs are the priority and they should have access to knowing the people involved in their final moments, should they so wish.

Financial Implications

Q7. Taking into account all those likely to be affected (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc), is the proposed Bill likely to lead to:

a significant reduction in costs

Please indicate where you would expect the impact identified to fall (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc). You may also wish to suggest ways in which the aims of the Bill could be delivered more cost-effectively.

Surely there would less financial costs to health board in supporting individuals in this manner.
Overall - less medication, less hospital or care home bed space, less prolonged engagement with medical professionals (all levels- consultants, doctors, pharmacists, nurses, care staff, cleaning staff,) less tests with associated lab time etc.
Compared to initial set up costs of setting up neutral body with local branch/staff levels to oversee applications etc.
It may be that in many cases the health professionals themselves involved with the individual will be fully supportive of individuals needs and therefore no need for involvement of external agency staff.

Equalities

Q8. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Sustainability

Q9. In terms of assessing the proposed Bill's potential impact on sustainable development, you may wish to consider how it relates to the following principles:

- living within environmental limits
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- achieving a sustainable economy
- promoting effective, participative systems of governance
- ensuring policy is developed on the basis of strong scientific evidence.

With these principles in mind, do you consider that the Bill can be delivered sustainably?

Yes

General

Q10. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

We need to end this mercilessly persecution of terminally ill people based on an outdated model of care which is based on a religious view point.