

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

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

Having stood as a candidate in the Scottish Parliament 2021 elections, the importance of this issue to constituents was very clear. It was the issue I received the most communication about.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

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).

Adrian May

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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

am totally in favour of this issue being dealt-with head-on, rationally, with evidence being submitted by those with relevant experience in this field (such as caring, nursing and medical professionals) as well as first-hand testimony from those who sadly now face the end scenario of their life, and wish to have some choice over the manner of their death.

On a personal note I find it horrifying that in this enlightened age, when religious beliefs and practices are held at arms-length from the making of law and the operation of good government, that we are still in the situation we are in. If you'll forgive me being very blunt about it, we treat our pets with more compassion than we do human beings.

Modern medical practice is sufficiently advanced to know when a patient has a terminal illness, and is in need of palliative care. The fact that we ourselves, our families friends and loved ones, have to watch and see which failure causes death - such as starvation, dehydration, suffocation, organ failure, blood poisoning, heart attack and so on - is frankly grotesque. It also means that the very stark final images our loved-ones are left-with can be harrowing, if not indeed horrific.

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 is required, otherwise individuals, family, medical and care professionals are on legally ambiguous ground, and may be driven more by their own beliefs and risk-aversion than what the patient wants.

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)?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response, including if you think there should be any additional measures, or if any of the existing proposed measures should be removed. In particular, we are keen to hear views on Step 2 - Reflection period, and the length of time that is most appropriate.

I feel there should be a secondary confirmation (if the patient is still competent) after the reflection stage, not just confirmation that the person has not revoked or wishes to revoke their declaration. It should be a positive indication, not simply a lack of a negative indication.

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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I feel a second confirmation is required after the reflection phase - a positive indication of intent.

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

Fully supportive

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

It should be treated as a specialism, like anything else. Remove the moral judgement aspect. If a healthcare professional chooses to qualify for this, they would receive appropriate certification and remuneration.

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:

some 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.

I would imagine there would be some reduction in costs, however I think the cost aspect should be considered separately. First a Bill should be considered to evaluate intent (whether to proceed with it or not), then a further Bill could be presented on the various implementation aspects.

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?

Unsure

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)?

No Response