

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 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).

Joyce Macdonald

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 believe individuals who have painful and terminal illnesses/conditions which they experience as limiting their quality of life to the extent that they wish to choose when to end their suffering should be able to do so without having to travel abroad, which makes it only available to the wealthy and discriminates against those who cannot fund it, or wish to end their life in familiar surroundings with family and friends. are u, and if they need help whenbtgat point cones their family whovassist them as an act of love and respect for their

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

wishes should be able to do so without fear of prosecution. There is sufficient evidence from those enlightened countries where there is already assisted dying that they do so compassionately and with respect for the individual, and there is no risk to vulnerable individuals being unfairly disadvantaged, or their rights to life not being protected

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 necessary to protect the dying individuals, and their family, friends or health practitioners who are willing to espouse their wishes and assist them from the risk of criminalisation.

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

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.

There are sufficient checks and balances within the legislation to respect the views of a person who is terminally ill, to respect the personal view of medical practitioners who may not wish to assist a terminally ill person due, and protect vulnerable individuals who are deemed not to have the capacity to make an informed decision. The stated process appears both reasonable and compassionate.

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

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The need for two practitioners to separately confirm the diagnosis that a person is terminally ill, and has the capacity to make an informed decision about choosing to be assisted to end their life; the 14 day period for reflection: the written paper trail and registered body interview all assisted deaths all appear adequate protection to ensure terminally ill individuals who wish to be assisted to have a dignified death can do so.

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.

This is further reassurance for those anxious about how assisted dying will operate, and the publication of relevant data provided transparency, and opportunity for scrutiny.

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

The register of practitioners do not wish to assist a terminally ill person to die would seem a reasonable way forward with them also being expected to give any terminally il person wishing to be assisted to die information sboutbother medical practitioners ehobare willing to assist so any terminally ill person can access the two medical practitioners to confirm both the diagnosis of having an illness that is likely to cause their death, and that thry have the capacity make an informed decision about wishing an assisted death.

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.

Allowing those who are terminally ill to ask to vecassisted to die in a way that is dignified, peaceful and pain free will reduce costs of expensively prolonging those individuals lives against their wishes. This is not the reason I support this legislation.

I support it because I believe people facing death from a trtmibslmillbess shouldg hvsve the right if bit is their decision to be assisted to die n to be respected.

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)

Please explain the reasons for your response. Where any negative impacts are identified, you may also wish to suggest ways in which these could be minimised or avoided.

This bill includes protection to ensure everyone's wishes will be respected and no-one will be able to force assisted dying on anyone else

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

This bill gives terminally ill people wish to be assisted to die in a safe, peaceful and dignified way to do so, if they are deemed medically to have the capacity to make that decision to do so. There are sufficient safeguards within the legislation for respecting health professionals choice of whether to participate or not, the staged process and regulatory requirements ensure protection for vulnerable individuals who are not deemed to have capacity. Such legislation is at the heart of a just and civilised society. From countries where such legislation is already in place there is evidence to support that such legislation in Scotland would meet all of the above principles.

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)?

This legislation is long overdue. There is absolutely no evidence from those countries who already have assisted dying legislation that anyone who is disabled is at any greater risk of harm as a result of this legislation, and they too have the right to make choices.