

# 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:**

My secondary maths teacher died a few years ago of MND. He was a young, fit man when he taught me and I was upset to hear of his death at the time.

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).

Lindsey Coyne

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.**

I strongly feel this bill is overdue in Scotland. Those who are dying of a terminal illness have a right to choose to end their lives in a dignified and painless manner with those who love each other. If we can do this for our pets then we should be able to give this great gift to those who are able to make that decision so that their death is peaceful rather than a prolonged torment.

Not long ago I watched an old Diagnosis Murder episode featuring a doctor helping patients to end their lives. In the end the doctor was "caught" administering drugs to end someone's life. I was very moved by the stigma associated with this act to end someone's life when they were suffering so much. I appreciate this is a very flippant example but it made me realise just how dated the views Dr Mark Sloan held and this has really stuck with me.

All too often on social media I have seen stories of those campaigning for a law such as this and I have seen so much support for it and been encouraged by it.

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.

100% legislation is needed to move Scotland in line with other countries who have adopted similar laws and to protect those who may assist others. There should be no ambiguity in the minds those those dying that they have made anything other than the correct decision and so laws must make sure they can die with peace of mind knowing there will be no fallout behind them.

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.**  
Glad to see that the process can be sped up for those who may die within 30 days.

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

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Unsure about the element where the person must administer the life-ending medication themselves as there must be edge-cases where this would not be possible.

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

Partially supportive

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

**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.**

I feel like this is important data to be collected and handled with sensitivity.

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

No views on this as not a HCP

## 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:

don't know

## 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

**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.**

Definitely noted that it's those of better socio-economic status that are expected to access assisted dying therefore simplifying the referrals process so it is as accessible as possible to everyone.

## 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.**

We would not treat our pets like this and to allow a decision like this to be taken by an individual takes a step towards the strong, healthy, just society because it allows autonomy of the individual at one of the most key life stages.

## 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)?

I would like to see some sort of pre-death declaration in future ammended to the bill stating that should certain conditions that make people no longer deemed to be sound-of-mind that they can express a wish in advance to meet a set of criteria where they can gain legal assistance in cases such as dementia, coma etc. to have their life ended for them.