

# 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:**

Prior to retirement, I was a Registered General Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor and Nurse Teacher.

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).

Ethne Brown

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.**

Each individual should be able, when they wish to die with dignity. Often treatments and procedures artificially prolong life which otherwise would have ended naturally earlier. Quality of life is better than a long painful, and dependant existence.

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 vital, otherwise Carers can be accused of murder and receive a custodial sentence, etc. There needs to be guidelines that everyone can follow and understand. If an individual does not want to participate due to ethical, religious reasons, they can, similar to the Abortion Act.

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.**

Reflection can vary, personally I am very clear and made a Living Will stating in certain circumstances, I wish to be pain free, no drugs to prolong my life and able to end my life with dignity. Making it a 30 day wait can be too much for some people to endure as they have waited too long to start the procedure.

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.**

There needs to be a method for people unable to take the drugs themselves. Even if it is consent via an eye blink so it can be delivered to them.

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.**

Perhaps similar to Registration of births, marriages and deaths. The death certificate could be in more detail, giving the diagnosis of the person, and stage they were in prior to the act of assisted death.

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

I think if anyone feels uncomfortable about the procedure and do not wish to participate, they must acknowledge this so they are not involved. What is more worrying are the people who object for their own reasons and then try to prevent a patient to discuss or proceed .

## 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.**

Personal care of a high standard, drugs required for pain control, etc are all very expensive. Home care also is expensive. These could be reduced in the cases where people wish not to continue their life. At the moment more funding and staff are required to provide high quality care for all terminal people.

## 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.**

A very difficult question. There are more elderly people who are well informed and have had an enjoyable meaningful life and do not wish to suffer or become dependant. They are likely to be amenable to the Bill. People who have had experience with dying people, and witnessed the long suffering often involved may also be amenable. Some people with strong religious beliefs will not agree. Other people like myself will set aside my own religious beliefs because I believe we are not here to suffer to the extent to drive me to die. Suicide can be a messy business and fail. To minimise or at least reduce negative response to the Bill, education is vital. There is no black and white, but insight into suffering involved should be seen so people can have some compassion and empathy for the sufferer.

## 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.**

In order for the Bill to be accepted by members of the public and professional bodies, it must be founded on scientific evidence and researched appropriately. Statements from patients and family who were unable to die with dignity when they wanted. Also statements from people who had to assist their family to Switzerland in order to receive assisted dying. Providing the advantages and disadvantages personally, socially and professionally.

## 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)?

Children too can be terminally ill should there be an inclusion as it seems to be a loophole.