

Proposed 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.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

These views express those of Kinloch Free Church of Scotland on behalf of the congregation and much of the community. They have been arrived at after consideration of the Bible's position on the sanctity of life, as well as the social impact if such a bill were to be passed.

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).

Kinloch Free Church of Scotland

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 opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response.

We believe assisted suicide (as well as, for example, unassisted suicide and murder) to be violations of the sixth commandment: 'You shall not murder.' (Exodus 20:13) Murder, here, does not simply refer to the murder of other people, but also to the murder of ourselves. God has created each one of us in His own image - to attack that image in any way is an attack on God Himself, and so is forbidden by God Himself.

As many of our civil laws have historically been built upon the moral law of God in the Bible, it is not sufficient to dismiss Biblical arguments as simply religious opinions. To do so would be to dismiss as 'opinion' much of the foundation on which our ethical framework in society has been based, therefore setting a very dangerous precedent for future moral decisions.

As well as the Biblical argument relating to sanctity of human life, we believe that this Bill would put overwhelming pressure on some of those who are elderly and infirm to seek to end their own lives in order not to be a bane on family, friends, or society as a whole. Such decisions would end up not being taken out of personal preferences but, rather, out of a sense of duty to others. This would create enormous pressure on those who need the help of society, rather than to be those arguably 'helping' society.

We also see the danger of this Bill being the catalyst for assisted dying to be extended beyond the infirm. For example, in the Netherlands, proposals have been made to extend the option of assisted dying to healthy over-75 who believe that they have lived a full life. Again, this puts undue pressure on old people to take their own lives so that they will not be a bane on society. We believe this to be unethical and unfair.

We believe that a moral society will seek to love and care for those who are elderly and those who have debilitating conditions by helping them to live the fullest life that is possible to them. This is best done through financial support, personnel support, treatments, and palliative care where necessary - not through assisted dying.

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.

As per previous answer, we believe that some (although not all) of the Bill's aims could be more effectively and ethically achieved through better support to enable people to live well, rather than to die.

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 opposed

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.

As we are fully opposed to the Bill, we cannot comment on particular aspects relating to how it will work in practice.

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

Fully opposed

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

As we are fully opposed to the Bill, we cannot comment on particular aspects relating to how it will work in practice.

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

Fully opposed

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.

As we are fully opposed to the Bill, we cannot comment on particular aspects relating to how it will work in practice.

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

Should the Bill be passed, full liberty should be given to healthcare professionals to withdraw from the process at any stage.

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?

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.

We believe that the Bill will have a proportionally more negative effect on the elderly and the sick, who will feel undue pressure to start the process to have their lives ended.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response.

We believe that assisted suicide does not belong in a 'strong, healthy and just society.'

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)?

N/A