

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:

I'm a retired nurse and I have personal experience with my family of wishing things were better and easier at the end of life.

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).

Sara Bruce

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 have looked after many people at the end of their lives both as a care assistant then general nurse and in my private life. I do not think this is something for everyone but I do believe that everyone should have the right to choose as they wish.

My own father had an awful end of life and I know he wished himself gone many many times before he did actually die. He was out of his head on the drugs used for his pain but still in pain anyway as most don't take all the pain away. Even before the drugs interference in his personality he said that if he knew before his treatment started what his life would entail he would not have had any of the surgeries or the chemotherapy. Simply put his life just wasn't worth living (his words not mine).

At the same time this was going on my cousin who was six months older than me was fighting for every extra day he could win to stay and be with his wife and daughters, mother father and brother. He was worn through years of treatment and relapse but never did he consider giving up he was amazing to see. So I truly believe everyone deserves the right to choose what is best for them with all the advice necessary to making their decision.

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.

Yes I do think it necessary to legislate on this subject even if only so people can hold their heads up while going through the worst time of their lives, so they don't feel like a dirty shameful secret. They can have respect shown to them for making such a difficult decision and have relief that they are not leaving their loved ones in a legal mess they struggle to cope with on top of dealing with the grief of their loss. So yes it really needs to have the correct legislation in place.

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.

Strangely enough I don't think a lengthy reflection period will be required as most folk will have an idea of their opinion long before they are even sick.

But some will surely be floored by the whole illness and should be given every help and advice there is in a time when every day counts. The time frame will have to be different for each individual as no two situations are the same even if they do have similarities.

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.

I do agree to the need for the safeguards highlighted in the document but I am further worried that because of these a considerable group of people will be left out in the cold .

I appreciate that in considering a new piece of law we have to start somewhere but there are many people of sound mind who have failing or failed physical capacity who are in some cases in greater need who won't have access to your new system if they cannot administer the drug themselves.

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

I believe you should cover these people at the same time in the same legislation and should allow a proxy to give the drug in these instances.

If your new law misses a large portion of the population it is setting out to help then it's starting out a failure. I think now is the time for this change but it must be there for everyone or it is seen as rigged in favour of the able-bodied just like life in general is easier for able-bodied people.

If a half-hearted law is brought in it will cause upset all around the people it is meant to help, it won't be fit for purpose if it doesn't work for everyone and you'll have a law with no teeth and people still breaking the law to help those who can't help themselves.

If this law is half-hearted when it comes out it will be a long time before it is revised because it will leave a bad taste in everyone's mouth.

We only have this one chance to get it right so let's do it right first time.

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.

Yes it should be monitored and probably by an existing body as there is no need for something separate when we already have people watching and counting all mortalities anyway. These same people were dying already so no need for another pencil pusher when what we need is all hands on deck to help the patients. Probably the office of official statistics.

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

All local staff who could be called upon to take part would need to be clear at start of job they could not be a part of this. But no-one should be penalised for refusing to take part.

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:

a significant 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.

This is not an area I can help with.

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?

Slightly 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.

So long as this law is for everyone ie all adults both disabled and able-bodied there should be no negative impacts.

All the negatives will come from those who do not wish this type of law is passed for example certain religions will be against it.

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?

Unsure

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 thank you and good luck. This is needed by many so be brave in your endeavours.