

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 police officer and have nursed two family members. I've seen how long and drawn the process is for people with terminal illnesses and the effects it has on families.

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).

Susan Murray

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 watched and nursed family members die of cancer and you would not let an animal suffer the way they did. They have no dignity in 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.

Yes, we need legislation and a long process in place to stop family members having their parents/family members put to sleep to gain monetary gains. If someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer's/dementia type disease, it is clear what will happen to them. So whilst they are of fit mind, they should make an informed decision based on doctors reports. That way, family members could have their time to say their goodbyes. Also with folks with terminal cancer, we all know the outcome. I was extremely distressed seeing my once strong mum, crying in absolute agony despite being given the "appropriate" drugs for her illness. She relied on us taking her to the bathroom, feeding her and in all honesty, it broke our family caring for her. When diagnosed she initially said she would go into a local hospice but she was afraid to go when the time came and decided to stay at home. Palliative care is hard and both my sister and I have experience due to our jobs.

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 needs to be a period of reflection as my mum changed her mind re end of life care. We had 3 weeks of her thinking she would die (as said by the nurses coming in to assist us). The period of reflection would have to be relative to the diagnosis and time given to the person. If they are given 3/4 weeks to live then the period of time would need to be shorter than someone given months to live. I think each decision would need to be based on medical professionals opinion and family opinion.

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.

There needs to be safeguards in place to prevent a "Harold Shipman" from occurring again whether it

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

Fully 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.

Apologies I pressed the button too early on the last question. What I needed to finish was that there must be legislation in place to prevent either medical professionals or family members getting this in place just to kill off the person for their gain. I'm fully supportive of the body collecting this evidence. This is not something that can be without proper consultation.

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

With all bills there will be those who do not wish to take part in this procedure and their wishes need to be respected. The decisions must be made with facts only however there will be lots of emotions surrounding decisions made regarding this. Ideally this is something that can be put into place long before the hard decisions need made. For example, like organ donation, my family and I have discussed this long before the "opt out" system came into place. I understand lots of families are not like us, but my sons are aware of my choices as am I aware of theirs.

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 increase 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.

There will be increased costs as personnel will be required to be out in place to facilitate this bill being put into place and the paperwork relating to the bill. However, it means that more pre paid funerals can be arranged prior to death.

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.

I really am sitting on the fence here because I feel that certain disabilities will lead to death in younger years, so this can be put in place prior to the time, when, in my experience, parents of disabled children will not make the decision, and occasionally feel not enough has been done for their child. In certain religions, the dead need to be buried within 24 hours and a fixed date would make this possible, in same sex marriages some families do not accept the partner and are occasionally left out of funeral arrangements and in my experience, I had a family who did not get on with their sons new partner and she

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?

excluded them from the funeral. They took her to court and had their son exhumed and buried in a family plot. It was all very traumatic for the family and this could have been avoided if assisted dying had been put in place prior to his death.

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 have come to a time when we would not allow an animal to suffer but we have continued to allow humans to suffer. I have had this discussion with my son as I have a debilitating illness and when the time comes, I'm heading to Switzerland if there is no assisted dying bill in place in Scotland.

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 Response