

# 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

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).

A M Falconer

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?

Partially supportive

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

Bill is a step in the right direction but too restrictive, requiring 14 days before assisted death can take place

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

during which time the patient will probably be in great agony. Also if patient barely conscious so cannot indicate clear consent does that mean he or she must suffer?

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 legislation is needed both to protect parties assisting from prosecution and to regularise, to some extent, normal clinical practice.

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)?

Partially 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.**

If the patient is in a condition to justify the process being initiated they may find it intolerable to be required to wait 14 days. Also if the initial physician is unavailable for any reason would the process have to start all over again?

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

Partially opposed

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

The legislation is driven by compassion hence it seems perverse to place obstacles in the way of the objective. The suspicion has to be that these obstacles, or safeguards as they are presented, are there in order to render the Bill more palatable to the vocal minority who seek to deny us the right to act freely and seek to impose their own religious beliefs upon the rest of us. That quite simply is unwarranted and unacceptable.

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

Partially 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.**

Serious risk of the body and the information it gathers being misrepresented by campaigners against assisted dying. The evidence suggests that those with their own religious agenda can be entirely unscrupulous in the furtherance of their aims.

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

The first duty of a healthcare professional is to the patient so I consider it unreasonable that their own private beliefs should be allowed to come before the interest of the patient. As the saying goes, if you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen.

## 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 about saving money: nonetheless since the question has been put, it is just common sense that reducing the time terminally ill patients linger would reduce the strain on all the various resources needed to maintain life support in the final stages.

## 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.**

I do not see what relevance such concerns can possibly have except to muddy the waters.

## 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.**

Concerns about sustainable development and the like are just political correctness gone mad, and another way of kicking the issue into the long grass

## 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)?

The proposal to allow assisted dying is a simple enough proposition which would help enshrine a basic human right. Objectors raising quibbles often seek to muddy the waters because they tend to have their own agendas, the bottom line being that many of them are implacably opposed on religious grounds whatever safeguards are introduced in an attempt to placate them. If it is accepted that assisted dying is a basic human right, objections on grounds of belief should be discounted as an attempt to drag nonbelievers into a code of practice and suffering to which they do not subscribe.