

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 would like this response to be published anonymously

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).

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 seen 4 relatives living with no kidneys, cancer and Parkinsons with no quality of life. All were saying that they wished they were no longer here and suffering the indignity of having the wear 'nappies', being fed and cleaned, being bedridden and having dementia for 4 years. It was a living nightmare for them and

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

for family. I have no wish to linger on after I can no longer feed and clean myself. People should be able to declare this - especially if they have dementia and are no longer of sound mind at a later date.

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.

There must be legislation. Assisted dying is happening behind closed doors at present - illegally.

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.

Fully approve of doctors being needed. The 14 day reflection period can rightly be shortened if death is expected within 30 days. However, my aunt went from Raigmore to a residential home for palliative care - not expecting to live long - and she wasted away to a skeleton, bedridden and finally died after 4 years with no knowledge of who anybody was and spent at least 2 hours in great distress, shouting for her brother who had died 20 years previously. The home were not allowed to give her medication to calm her down.

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.

Two doctors are required and psychological testing to avoid unscrupulous relatives putting pressure on an elderly person so that home fees are reduced.

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

Partially 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.

I am in support of a body being responsible for collecting data but think it should be within 7-14 days.

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

Health Care professionals should have it stated in their contracts whether or not they will participate in end of life treatment and they should NEVER be put under any pressure to participate - especially if they have strong religious views.

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

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 may be a reduction in hospital costs but there would be costs in setting up the Reporting Body which may cancel any savings. There would be costs involved in issuing new contracts to all health professional unless they were able to 'sign' a declaration on line stating their wish to be excluded or included in end of life treatment.

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.

Every individual should have the right to die with dignity. They should have discussed it with their family/friends AND had their wishes put in writing - not necessarily a legal document but it could be witnessed in advance of their terminal illness becoming to bad eg MND patients. No pressure should be put on any individual to change their minds - one way or the other.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Too complex for a 71 year old pensioner!

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)?

In time dying with dignity should be extended to people who are not classed as terminally ill eg people who have no quality of life - regardless of age. However, I don't think that will ever happen as there are too many people with mental illnesses who are not really competent to make life changing decisions despite the fact that their lives are a nightmare for themselves and for family and friends.