

# 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 have spent many days/nights as a support worker sitting with someone on palative care so they don't die alone. Most by this stage have no quality of life and have been bedbound for weeks if not months. It would be far more dignified for the person to be able to choose when to end their life before the extreme pain and suffering started, and also for their loved ones not having to watch them go through this!

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).

Gillian woods

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 the pain and suffering people can go through when dying. Not being able to eat and drink for weeks and their bodies wasting away. We would not let an animal suffer like this so why do we let other human beings suffer. If the person is terminally ill let them choose when to go, when it feels right for them, and with dignity

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 believe legislation is required as there needs to be protocols to follow and reasons for the decision to be assisted to die. I think it could easily be manipulated the wrong way of there isn't legislation to follow.

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.**

I don't believe that this will be an easy decision for anyone to make as no one knows what's on the other side. But if you are already thinking of assisted dying then you will have thought long and hard about it before approaching someone to help. I think the reflection period is needed after they get all the proper information as they may change their mind but it shouldn't be too long as we are talking about people suffering here when they don't need to be in pain.

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.**

Safeguards need to be in place to protect the person and whoever is assisting them to die. They're will also be backlash from peoples families who don't agree with assisted dying but if the person has chose that this is what they Want them it is their right to die with dignity.

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.**

I am fully supportive of this but I would also be wary of who was included in this body! I understand that

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

there will have to be legal representation but I think it would also be good to get health care workers involved as they have a better understanding of what the people are going through, instead of it all just being numbers and statistics. These numbers are someone's loved ones.

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

As well as the person choosing I think there should also be a way for their families/carers to decide when assisted deaths should happen. Many families are put through hell when a loved one is palative, they could be sitting round their bed for weeks wondering if the next breath is their last. I don't think the person should be left to be medicated so they are not in pain when there is another way they could be pain free.

## 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.**

I believe that there would be a significant reduction as these people would no longer need lengthy hospital appointments or stays. If they are in a care home, they or the council is still paying for their care, or extra staff care depending on how many staff is there. there will be set up costs to start off with but after this it will reduce costs

## 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.**

Thinking of many people with disabilities at end of life care, many have a incapacity certificate stating that they can't make the choice themselves, where almost everyone else can. There would need to be extra steps put in place for equality in disabled people

## 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.**

There will be lots of decisions to go through before assisted dying is an option, and as much as the person will decide that they want it there will be protocols to follow and criteria to have been reached before it is done. Before it becomes legal there will have been a lot of research done and discussions and decisions made with what these are.

## 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*