

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).

ELIZABETH DAVIS

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 do not feel that human beings should suffer ongoing physical and emotional pain and trauma when they are ill, and feel that we should have the right to be gently 'put to sleep' like our animal friends, when we are ready to go and with the approval of a GP plus another member of the medical community.

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.

The current opposing legislation is that anyone assisting a person to take their own life is committing a criminal offense. Hence people being forced to leave the comfort of their own homes to travel to Swedish Assisted Dying Clinics. This is very cruel. Making assisted dying legal would ensure that no-one need dread their old age, or frailty, or terminal illness, and be assured, in law, that when the time comes and they wish to die, that they can either be given drugs in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes, or that they can be allowed to die in their local hospital with loved ones at their side. Many people currently commit suicide when they know they are going to face suffering and a slow death. It is inhuman, with all the drugs we have at our disposal, to let human beings suffer, when we are so much kinder to animals. I feel that the chance of a relative abusing this law would be negated by there being a 'Assisted dying team' of a GP, a Psychiatrist, and a specialist in the condition the person is suffering from. I am 61, and I know that if I get very ill, and there isn't a law in place to allow me to be put to sleep gently, that I will commit suicide by throwing myself off a tall building, or in front of a train. How traumatic would that be for my children? Having a law in place which allows a 'team' to agree to a persons request, would also prevent murders by the likes of Dr Shipman, as there will always be a 3 person panel who can decide. No GP should ever be allowed to make such a decision alone. We all know that overdoses of morphine are administered to terminally ill people in hospital, it's just that it's not legal. Make it legal. Make it law.

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 think there should be a reflection period after a panel of GP, Psychiatrist and Specialist Consultant have approved the person's request for assisted dying. It depends on how ill the person is or how much they are suffering. But a period of 4 days should be enough.

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

Fully supportive

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.

All data should be kept in regards to the reasons a person wishes to die, and the process and steps taken to deliberate on the decision.

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

A 3 person panel of GP, Psychiatrist and Specialist Consultant should suffice. Any conscientious objection by any other person, other than the patient, must be disregarded as the wishes of the patient are paramount and should be their decision and their's alone, as to their request for assisted dying.

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 am not sure what exactly this question pertains to, but if it refers to whether for instance, assisted dying would reduce costs to the NHS for keeping someone alive who doesn't wish to be alive, then yes, there would be a significant reduction in costs of NHS Care and costs to the individuals family for care home or hospice 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?

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.

This would be a law for everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, marital status, race, religion, or other belief. However, pregnancy would complicate things considerably, as the individual who is pregnant but who wishes to die, would be taking another life with them in the process. I feel that a pregnant woman who wishes to die, can only be allowed to make that decision up until the current legal time limit for an abortion. Thereafter, unless the foetus is in danger due to the person's illness or injury, a woman must endure the pregnancy and live until the baby reaches full term.

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

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