

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).

John R. Ward

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.

Having seen someone suffer with no chance of a cure, it just seems wrong to let people suffer. It wont be for everyone but I strongly believe those who wish to end their suffering be given the opportunity to do so.

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.

I definitely think legislation is required. This must be discussed and properly debated with proper controls in place.

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 like the idea of a reflection period but only a few days, as people will not take this decision lightly. Having made the decision to end their life due to their suffering, we cannot be inhumane and allow them to linger for a long period. I also think that people should be entitled to register their wishes in advance (the "living will" type concept) so that anyone retrospectively can ascertain if it was a decision made due to the exact circumstances they faced or whether it was a life long held belief that if they were in certain circumstances they would like to end their suffering.

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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The 14 day period is too long. I think it should be a few days or a maximum of a week. When someone is terminal and in pain, every day is a struggle and we need to alleviate that suffering. 2 HCPs will have assessed the individual, so I don't agree that waiting another 14 days adds anything other than prolonging the suffering.

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 have no strong views about a new or existing body to collect information. I think it would be good to ascertain the timeframe between terminal diagnosis and application for assisting dying, the terminal illnesses that cause people to think that way and also to ascertain who have thought about this in advance and who only considered it when they were diagnosed with a terminal illness. Note that I have discussed this as an option with my family and they know that if I am terminally ill and assisted dying is available, I would certainly be opting that way (I have seen a loved family member suffer a slow lingering death and it is not something I would wish for my demise)

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

I think HCPs should be able to opt out, however a bit of education that it is the ultimate support that can be given (allowing somebody to die with dignity in place of dying in pain) should be given to HCPs.

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 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 think the NHS would see a reduced bill for care at the end of life. Palliative care takes time and money (for pain relieving drugs over a period of time and the cost for people to administer them, as opposed to one dose that allows the terminally ill person to drift away.

I think the cost issue is really inconsequential as it is about quality of life at the end and allowing people to pass with dignity.

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.

Overall the influence of religious bodies on our lives is reducing. It will be a dichotomy for some as they won't want to suffer but it will be against their religious beliefs. We need to help and support those people to come to a decision which is right for them and it will be different for different people, which will involve providing somebody neutral to talk it through with.

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.

The issues listed above seem to ignore the greatest reason for this bill. It will end suffering and allow dignity in dying, which is not available at present.

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)?

None