

# Proposed 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.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).**

Catholic Truth is an independent lay organisation which reports on Church issues. Our readership and supporters are traditional Catholics who are wholly opposed to all attempts to introduce legislation which permits "assisted dying" - we are entirely pro-life from conception to natural death.

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).

Catholic Truth (Scotland)

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 opposed

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

It is wrong for the State or any of its agencies, to facilitate the killing of its people. There is no such thing as "safe" "assisted dying". Pressure will be put on the vulnerable to allow themselves to be murdered, which is, in fact, what is meant by "assisted dying". Once the people get used to the practice of the legalised killing of the sick and elderly, the barriers will be removed and everyone will be at risk of being murdered because "assisted dying" will inevitably lead to euthanasia.

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 do not think legislation is required. Government should concentrate on building up families, providing the resources necessary for the sick and elderly to be cared for in their homes or with their families. In addition, hospices should be well funded and resourced, so that if family and home-care is not possible, the hospices can provide all necessary assistance for those requiring end-of-life care.

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 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.**

There is no way to be sure that people will make such a decision without "coercion or duress" - there are subtle ways in which self-serving people, whether relatives or doctors, might put pressure on a sick or elderly relative. The reflection period is far too short - people take longer than 14 days to decide whether to sell and buy a new home! It's ridiculous. Again, knowing there is such a time limit, itself puts pressure on the sick and elderly. Terminal illnesses may be mistakenly diagnosed or there may be an excellent treatment discovered which may change the impact on patients - this whole mentality of wanting to kill those who are non-productive in society, making them feel that they should be gone (however subtly this is achieved) amounts to the State and its agencies playing God.

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

Fully opposed

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

Safeguards, are easily removed as we have witnessed in other countries such as Canada which removed the requirement for a person to be terminally ill after legalising assisted suicide. We are all at risk if this Bill is passed. In fact, the very title of the proposed Bill is misleading. Many people will think assisted dying refers to palliative care, when the Bill is actually means prescribing lethal drugs to allow people to kill themselves.

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

Fully 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.**

We have seen that such bodies cannot be trusted to collate and publish reliable and accurate data, not least during the pandemic. This would be no different. In any event, there should be no "data" to collect - this Bill must not be passed if we are to call ourselves a civilised society.

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

This would be as meaningless as the alleged conscientious objection permitted health care workers opposed to abortion. Sooner or later, medics will be forced to act against their consciences, and kill patients. The best way to respect the consciences of all concerned, is to ditch this Bill.

## 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 increase 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.**

It is possible that many people will take the Government and/or its agents in the medical profession to court over the killing of relatives in various scenarios. There is also the issue of people refusing to go into hospital - people are already speaking to relatives to ensure that they are not admitted to hospital but kept in their homes, and if admitted, that their relatives closely monitor their care. Already, then, trust in the medical profession has been eroded and the legalising of assisted suicide will only further decrease this trust.

## 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?

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 Bill sends a message to the sick, elderly and disabled that their lives are worthless. The only way to avoid this impact, is to ditch this Bill.

## 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?

No

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

There can never be a "strong, healthy and just society" when the most vulnerable members of that society are at risk of being killed because they are sick, elderly or disabled.

## 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)?

There are so many objections to this legislation that I cannot list them all. Suffice to add that during the pandemic 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders were inappropriately applied to vulnerable people. In some cases it was assumed that elderly and disabled people did "not have mental capacity" to discuss their treatment. We should be strengthening protections for such people, not making it easier for them to be killed by the State and its agents.