

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:

My mother, despite attentive and caring palliative care, had to endure a distressing death, that could have been avoided if the rights and procedures proposed in this Bill had been available to her. I see no reason why people should not have this choice, given the safeguards that are in place- I would wish to have this choice and my mother, if she was here, would be supporting this for herself and others in future.

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).

Rose Roberts

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.

It is only right that we have this choice. I am satisfied that there are sufficient safeguards to avoid any potential misuse of the process.

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, legislation required to safeguard medical, health professional and family- to avoid any worries that if they were to help carry out the wishes of a terminally ill person that they might be breaking the law. Of course, to ensure that the terminally ill person can, without prejudice, make this decision and request, openly and receive appropriate support in the process. Legislation will make things clear and safe.

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.

If done early enough, then 14 days is fine but it is appropriate, as you have stated that if death likely to be within 30 days, that this period needs to be shorter.

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.

Keeps the person wishing to request this process and all practitioners compliant with their codes of conduct and legal aspects. Opportunity for the person to change their mind formally or actually not go ahead with it if they change their mind. Not compulsory to go through with it if don't want to later on. Safeguards family from any potential accusations of coercion.

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.

Need standardisation of collection of responses, circumstances, concerns, outcomes etc. Information can be collated and reported in transparent and unbiased way.

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

I read that they can already opt out of participating in certain procedures and this is proposed to be one of them- but further training and explanation of the subject may help. As health professionals, they are there to facilitate the best interests of the patient and if the patient is saying what they want, I personally wonder what core beliefs the health care practitioner might have, that would mean that they would deny a patient's request- given the reasons for becoming a health professional. So , the Proposed Bill currently covers this and that should be reassuring for HCPs who don't wish to accede to a patient's own beliefs and wishes.

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 is likely to be some off-setting of costs in other ways eg. Savings on community or hospital nursing and medical care, personal care, social and equipment costs, medication and pharmacy costs etc if a person's life is prolonged longer than they wish. If a patient had different medical needs, other than for assisted dying, then they would not be denied this treatment, service or additional medication costs so why would this aspect of a person's care need to be denied on grounds of cost either.

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?

Positive

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 choice would be open to all. If there are further explanations or support identified that would enable some groups identified as not accessing this option, then information and support could be put in place to enable everyone to have this, in appropriate ways, relevant to their own circumstances. The same way as there are inequalities in other aspects of health currently, similar blocks to accessing/ engaging with services will have to be removed in an ongoing way.

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.

We cannot continue to deny people towards the end of their lives, this personal choice. In my opinion, this is a basic right.

There has been enough scientific research to go ahead with this Bill, it is improving access to health, it would avoid people flying abroad for assisted dying, reducing impact on climate change, there may even be savings to the economy but this isn't a driving factor. So , yes, fits in with these principles.

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)?

This Bill has been well- thought out and in my opinion, addresses the potential concerns or objections that people might have. It is an example of legislation that gives people the right to choose, without adversely affecting anyone else so this must be straight forward.