

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).

Linda Kinney

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 feel very strongly that I should have a right to a dignified death and end of life experience and that others should have this right too, should they wish it. Palliative care although very important is not enough . My elderly and terminally ill mother is dying very very slowly ! She is in constant pain and although heartbreaking and distressing for me, for her, it is thoroughly exhausting, depressing and at times utterly

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

terrifying. The strong medications for the pain cause hallucinations and she has nightmares and the other medications to mitigate the side effects means her body is constantly under attack not just from her illnesses but the drugs. I can't begin to describe the impact other than she has serious problems with eating, sleeping and toileting and weighs around 28kilos .Her quality of life is so reduced and utterly miserable she just so wants these 'dark times' to end. And why shouldn't she ? why should this woman have to suffer like this and for so long when she feels overall that she has had a good life but really now desperately wants it to end . I believe my mother should be able to have medical assistance to die.

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 think legislation is required as this ensures a right for all, sets standards and ensures clarity including for example the safety measures that are built in. The fact that other countries including the most recent New Zealand, has introduced legislation suggests that this is required to ensure equitable access and that it is not relying on actions or the non action of individuals.

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 am fully supportive of this approach. In terms of commenting on the particular detail of the measures. It is my view that it does not require two doctors to agree, I believe that one doctor is sufficient. However, I do understand that agreeing to two maybe viewed as part of the safeguarding. In terms of the reflection period , in my view 14 days is too long. My mother has been wishing to die for at least a year and this could go on longer, so she does not need another two weeks to think about it. Again, I understand that this may be viewed as an important safeguard and if so then perhaps this could be shortened to 7 days.

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.

My reasons have been outlined in the previous 3 responses.

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.

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

Understanding how a new system of legislation is working in practice is beneficial in terms of future improvements or changes. I have no strong views on who, what and how this is collected at this stage.

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

At the core of the health or care profession is to understand the needs of others. This includes understanding otherness, that we are not all the same and that we can think in different ways and believe in different things. This means that we should always consider if we are giving one way of thinking and being more weight or status than another. Respecting people and these differences between us should be a fundamental part of ongoing training and practice, including the challenges this brings about and how this is balanced with professional knowledge and understanding, medical practice and approaches and the law. I suppose in short that we need to keep talking to one another and make space and time to do this.

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.

I would only be speculating.

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 is about a right to die with dignity and therefore contributes significantly to Scotland's ambition for greater equality.

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.

In my view this Bill is significant in contributing to a just society where we are using both scientific and democratic means to ensure an entitlement of the right to die with dignity for those that wish it.

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 is aimed at giving those people who wish to have support to die, the right to do so. It does not change the situation for those that do not want it. That other nations and countries have already introduced this legislation would suggest that people all over the world would like this entitlement. I would like to have this entitlement in Scotland and not be disadvantaged because I am Scottish.