



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Tell us what you think about the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill



## Easy read survey

Tell us what you think before  
**11.59pm on**  
**Friday 16 August 2024**

August

**16**

# Who we are



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

We are the **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee** of the **Scottish Parliament**.



A **committee** is a small group of people who are **Members of the Scottish Parliament** also called **MSPs**.



The Scottish people decide who is an MSP by voting for them in elections.



The **Scottish Parliament** makes **laws** in Scotland.



**Laws** are rules that tell people what they can or cannot do.



They protect people and make sure everyone is treated in a good and fair way.



The Scottish Parliament also checks what the **Scottish Government** is doing.



© The Scottish Government

The **Scottish Government** decides how to run the country.



The Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament are separate organisations.

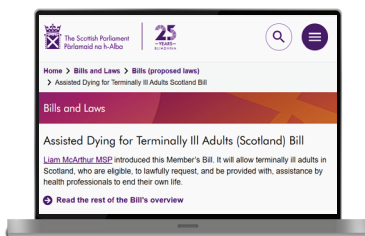
# What this booklet is about



This booklet is about a new **bill**. A **bill** is a document that could become a law.



The Bill is called the **Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill**. The idea for the Bill came from an MSP called Liam McArthur.



Go to our website to find out more about the Bill

[www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill](http://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill)

This information is not in Easy Read.



The Bill will become part of the law in Scotland if the other MSPs agree with it.

# What the Bill is about



At the moment in Scotland, you could be breaking the law if you help a person to end their life.



The Bill is about changing the law on **assisted dying**.

For the Bill, **assisted dying** means a person gets help from a **health professional** to end their life.



For the Bill, a **health professional** is someone who is officially allowed to work in healthcare, like a doctor or a nurse.



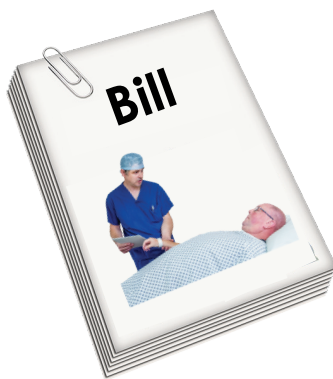
The Bill is about changing the law so there is a way for **adults** who are **terminally ill** to have assisted dying.



For the Bill, **adults** are people who are 16 years old or more.



**Terminally ill** means you have an illness you will never get better from. The illness will lead to the end of your life.



We tell you what the Bill says below and on the next 3 pages.

**The Bill says** that to ask for assisted dying, a person must

- have a terminal illness
- be an adult
- have lived in Scotland for 12 months or more
- be able to make their own decisions
- be **registered** with a doctor in Scotland.



**Registered** means officially signed up at a doctor's surgery.



**The Bill says** that before a person decides they want to have assisted dying, they must have information about other choices, like **palliative** or **hospice** care.



**Palliative** care is care that supports people with a terminal illness to live the best life they can in the time before the end of their life.



A **hospice** is a place you can stay and be cared for when you have a terminal illness and you are close to the end of your life.



**The Bill says** 2 doctors must agree a person is **eligible** to have assisted dying.

**Eligible** means meet the rules for something.



**The Bill says** a person must make the decision to have assisted dying on their own.



2 doctors must agree the person has not been **pressured** or **coerced** into their decision.

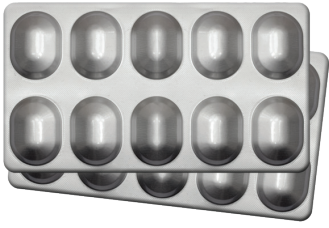


If you are **pressured** into doing something, it means someone tries to make you do something you do not want to do.



If you are **coerced** into doing something, it means someone frightens you to make you do something you do not want to do.





**The Bill says** that if 2 doctors agree a person is eligible to have assisted dying, they can get a drug to end their life.



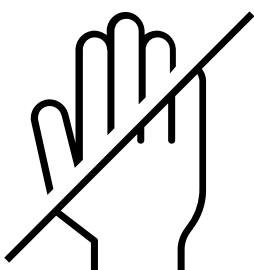
A health professional hands the drug to them, but they must choose to take it themselves.



**You could still be breaking the law if you help a person to end their life but don't follow the rules in the Bill.**



**The Bill says** that no one will have to help people end their life if they have a **conscientious objection** to doing this.

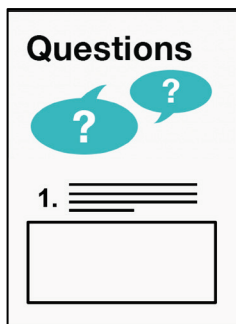


A **conscientious objection** is when you do not want to do something because your own beliefs mean you do not agree with it.

# Tell us what you think



We want you to tell us what you think about the Bill.



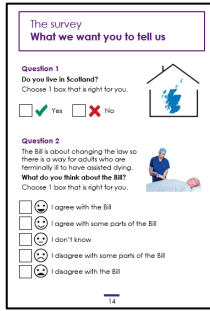
We have written some questions for you to answer. This is called a **survey**.



The survey is to find out what people think about the Bill and how they think it could be made better.



The survey is **not** to find out how many people agree or disagree with the Bill.



The survey questions are on **pages 14 to 18** of this booklet.



You do not have to answer all of the questions.



Thank you for helping us. What you tell us is important.



It will help the MSPs make the Bill better and decide if it should become a law.

# About the survey



When you fill in the survey, do not give information about someone else that could tell other people who they are.

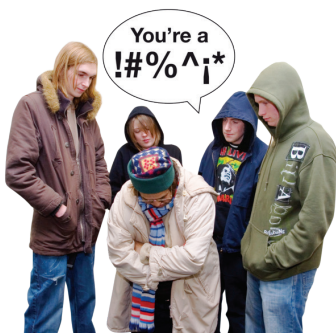


This means information like their name, address or where they work.



We will not use parts of your answers to the survey if

- you give information about someone else
- you use **offensive** language.



**Offensive** means bad language that might upset people.

# How to fill in the survey



- Type your answer in the box under each question.
- If the question has small boxes, click the box next to the answer you want to choose.



When you have filled in the survey, save it to your computer.

Attach it to an email and send it to this address

**[ADBill@parliament.scot](mailto:ADBill@parliament.scot)**



The questions start on the next page.

# The survey

## What we want you to tell us

### Question 1

**Do you live in Scotland?**

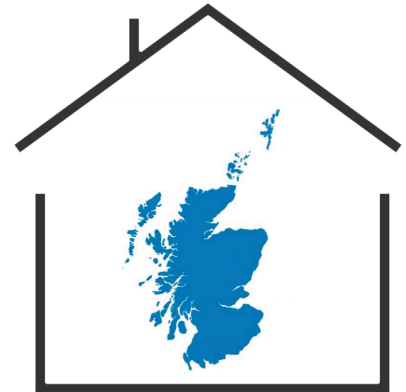
Choose 1 box that is right for you.



Yes



No



### Question 2

The Bill is about changing the law so there is a way for adults who are terminally ill to have assisted dying.

**What do you think about the Bill?**

Choose 1 box that is right for you.



I agree with the Bill



I agree with some parts of the Bill



I don't know



I disagree with some parts of the Bill



I disagree with the Bill

### Question 3

**What are the most important things for you when you think about assisted dying?**

Choose all the boxes that are right for you.



- assisted dying might affect how health professionals feel and how they behave towards people who ask for it
- personal autonomy**  
**Personal autonomy** means being able to make decisions and choices about your own life.
- personal dignity**  
**Personal dignity** means you are treated in a good way and live your life in the way you want.
- less pain and suffering
- vulnerable** people might be pressured or coerced  
**Vulnerable** means people who are more likely to be hurt or have bad things happen to them.
- assisted dying might affect the lives of vulnerable groups, like disabled people, in a bad way

There are more choices for **question 3** on the next page.

## The survey

There are more choices for **question 3** below.



### **sanctity of life**

**Sanctity of life** is the idea that all life is important and should not be ended on purpose.

the rules for assisted dying might change over time and there might be less **safeguards**  
**Safeguards** are rules that protect people and keep them safe from harm.

Something different - tell us what.  
Write in the box below.



## Question 4

**Is there anything else you want to tell us about the Bill?**

Write in the box below.



# The survey

## Question 5

How did you find out about the survey?

Scottish Parliament website

Radio

Newspaper

Social media

Something different - tell us what.  
Write in the box below.



Thank you for answering our questions.

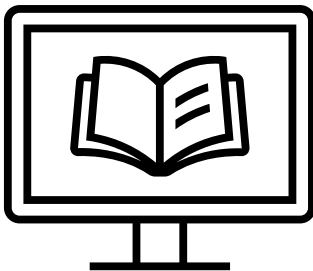
# What we do with your information



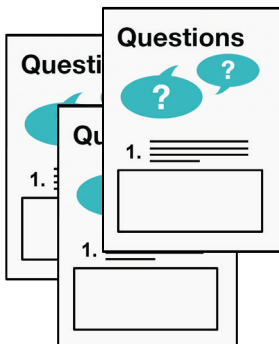
**Your information** means anything you tell us that lets other people know who you are, like your name or email address.



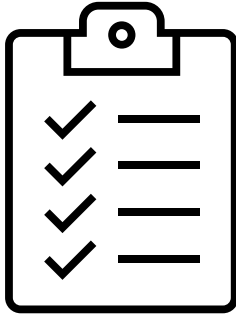
If you answer questions in this survey, we will not **publish** your information or what you tell us in your answers.



**Publish** means put something where everyone can read it, like on a website or in a report.



We will read all the answers we get and write a **summary**.



A **summary** is a short version that tells you the main information we find out.



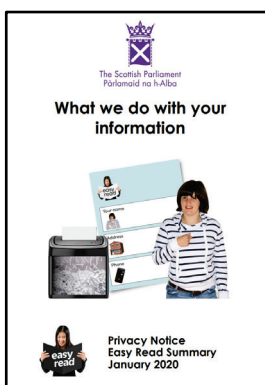
The summary will be published on the Scottish Parliament website.

MSPs will read the summary.



## Privacy Notice

A **Privacy Notice** is a document that tells you what an organisation does with your information.



Go to this website to read an Easy Read version of our privacy notice [https://archive2021.parliament.scot/Privacy-Notice/Submitting\\_Your\\_Views\\_to\\_A\\_Committee\\_Easy\\_Read.pdf](https://archive2021.parliament.scot/Privacy-Notice/Submitting_Your_Views_to_A_Committee_Easy_Read.pdf)

# Contact us



If you have any questions about this booklet,

- send an email to this address **[ADBill@parliament.scot](mailto:ADBill@parliament.scot)**
- or call this telephone number **0800 092 7500**



If you want information in other languages or in British Sign Language (BSL), please ask us.