

Dear Business Managers,

We are writing to you as a collective of organisations representing health and social care staff across Scotland, united in our desire to ensure adequate and robust scrutiny of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. We all maintain a position of neutrality on the principle of assisted dying.

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's Stage 1 report identified a number of aspects of the Bill which required thought. Around 300 amendments were lodged and considered by the Committee at Stage 2. The Bill has therefore undergone significant amendment, with a number of substantial matters likely to be reconsidered at Stage 3.

It is our view that the Bill, as it currently stands, still requires further consideration and work to ensure that it protects those who are accessing and those who are delivering an assisted dying service.

Stage 3 will be the first, and final opportunity for all MSPs to examine the full detail of the legislation.

It goes without saying that this is a profoundly important Bill. If passed, it will fundamentally reshape how we approach death and dying in Scotland.

It is also an emotive issue, with deeply held views on both sides. MSPs will be receiving a high volume of correspondence from constituents and stakeholders and will rightly want time to reflect and consider all aspects thoroughly. As such, MSPs will want to ensure sufficient scrutiny at Stage 3 and avoid any criticism of rushing this legislation.

We therefore urge Parliament to allow sufficient time to thoroughly scrutinise this Bill before a final vote, including an adequate period to scrutinise changes made at Stage 2 and for considering Stage 3 amendments.

While we understand that the current parliamentary timetable requires the Bill to be considered before dissolution in March 2026, we do not want the quality of scrutiny to be compromised by this.

We therefore call for:

- **Maximum time possible between Stage 2 and Stage 3** to allow MSPs and stakeholders to properly examine the revised Bill and consider the need for further amendments. Stage 3 should take place in February or March 2026 to give Parliament sufficient time to consider scrutiny of this Bill. Stage 3 could also be spread across more than one day to allow MSPs to focus on specific sections in detail.
- **Consideration of special scrutiny measures.** We note that the House of Lords has taken the unusual step of establishing a special select committee to gather expert evidence ahead of detailed scrutiny of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. In the absence of a revising chamber, the Scottish Parliament must do all it can to ensure this legislation receives the scrutiny it deserves.
- **Further committee engagement.** Under current parliamentary rules, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee could revisit the Bill between Stages 2 and 3 and produce a report for MSPs. Additional Stage 2 scrutiny could also be arranged under Rule 9.8, paragraph 6 of the Standing Orders.

We urge the Scottish Parliament to take the time necessary to ensure this legislation is considered with the depth, care and seriousness it demands. The decisions made at Stage 3 will have lasting consequences for individuals, families, and professionals across Scotland.

Yours sincerely

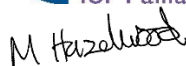


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Additional signatories:



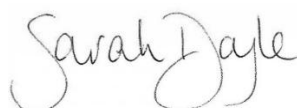
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