



09/09/25

Dear Member of the House of Lords,

Regarding the Terminally Ill adults (End of Life Bill) 2024 – Serious Clinical Concerns

We write as the professional body representing over 1,400 palliative medicine specialists across Great Britain and Ireland to express profound concerns regarding the current TIA Bill (aka Assisted Dying Bill). Our members, who care daily for patients at the most vulnerable stages of life, warn that the proposed legislation in its present form contains significant and unmitigated risks.

1. Equity before expansion

- Every patient deserves equitable access to high-quality palliative care before considering assisted dying - this must be guaranteed first.

2. Protect palliative care

- With critical workforce shortages, inequitable access to palliative care, predominantly charitably funded services, assisted dying must not become a default option.

3. Conscience matters

- Healthcare professionals and organisations must retain the unconditional right to opt-out of any involvement without penalty

4. Inadequate Safeguards endanger patients

- Flawed six-month prognosis, risks of coercion, missed mental health assessment and patients feeling like a burden as a “legitimate” reason -the current safeguards leave lives at risk.

We urge you to review these documents made for you:

- The APM Twenty Key Questions for the House of Lords ([Here](#))
- The APM Assisted Dying ‘Myth Buster’ for the House of Lords ([Here](#))
- The APM ‘What is Palliative Care?’ for the House of Lords ([Here](#))

Alternatively, see all our resources at <https://apmonline.org>

In matters of life and death, the threshold for safety must be unassailable. The current proposals fall demonstrably short of this standard, exposing vulnerable people to risks we cannot undo - all while the palliative care they deserve remains inequitable and often unavailable. Until these profound concerns are meaningfully addressed, moving onwards with assisted dying would risk normalising irreversible decisions borne from unequal access to care, not genuine choice. We urge extreme caution: the dying need investment in support, not legislation that could compound existing inequities.

Sincerely,

Executive of the APM

Dr Suzanne Kite (President)

Dr Paul Paes (Vice-President)

Dr Natasha Wiggins (Treasurer)

Dr Sarah Cox (Past-President)

And Dr Matthew Doré (Hon Secretary)