



Association for  
Palliative Medicine  
Of Great Britain and Ireland

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## Association for Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland (APM) Statement regarding Holyrood 1<sup>st</sup> reading vote on Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill on the 13/5/25

**The Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill has passed 1<sup>st</sup> stage with 70 in favour and 56 against.**

The APM's primary concern is, and always will be, the delivery of the highest standard of palliative and end-of-life care for all patients. We believe that quality, equity, and accessibility of palliative care across Scotland must remain the top priority of any legislative changes in this area.

For any assisted dying framework to be practically viable, it must ensure genuine choice, safety, and equity for patients. Currently, the safety and workability of this Bill is compromised by inadequate safeguards, under-resourced services working under extreme pressure for people approaching the end-of-life and lack of protections for those who are vulnerable. As choice is the underpinning principle of this assisted dying legislation, this principle must extend equally to healthcare professionals and organisations who must be able to choose whether or not to participate.

Assisted dying services must neither divert resources from other end-of-life care which must be available for all patients, nor disadvantage provision of end of life and other services. Funding for assisted dying must be wholly separate from palliative care funding. For genuine choice to exist, the APM emphasises the urgent need for long-term, sustainable funding of specialist palliative care services. The APM asserts that commissioned hospital, hospice and community palliative care services must be fully NHS funded within clear service specifications, to prevent further erosion of care.

We recommend the following documents to review:

- 1) Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) is calling on MPs and MSPs to consider serious concerns 13/5/24 ([Here](#))
- 2) Scotland 22 Questions for MSPs ([Here](#))
- 3) The Palliative Care Commission released 14/5/24 ([Here](#))
- 4) The APM Conscientious objection statement for both individual and organisational ([Here](#))
- 5) The APM position Statement on Assisted Dying ([Here](#))
- 6) The APM Scotland 2022 Assisted Dying Survey ([Here](#))

Sincerely,

Executive of the Association of Palliative Medicine