

Response ID ANON-GGFG-RS2F-R

Submitted to Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill: Financial Memorandum
Submitted on 2024-08-16 08:52:19

About you

1 Please read the privacy notice below and tick the box below to show that you understand how the data you provide will be used as set out in the policy.

I have read and understood how the personal data I provide will be used.

2 How your response will be published

I would like my response to be published in its entirety

3 What is your name?

Name:
Fiona McIntyre

4 What is your email address?

Email:
Fiona.McIntyre@rpharms.com

5 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Organisation details

1 Name of organisation

Name of organisation:
Royal Pharmaceutical Society Scotland

2 Information about your organisation

Please add information about your organisation in the box below:

We are the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, the professional membership body for pharmacists and pharmacy.

Our mission is to put pharmacy at the forefront of healthcare.

Our vision is to become the world leader in the safe and effective use of medicines.

Since RPS was founded in 1841 we have championed the profession, and are internationally renowned as publishers of medicines information.

We promote pharmacy in the media and government, lead the way in medicines information, and support pharmacists in their education and development.

Question page 1

1 Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

No

2 If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Not applicable

3 Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Yes

Question page 2

1 If the Bill has any financial implications for you or your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Not applicable

2 Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

It is assumed within the financial memorandum that the cost of each dose provided to a terminally ill adult to end their own life would be £80. We think this is likely to be a huge underestimate of the actual cost for each dose, once all the costs of procurement, storage, facilitation, disposal etc. are considered.

Furthermore, in Queensland, where voluntary assisted dying legislation is in place, circa 300 people had an assisted death in the first 6 months. This is for a population which is very similar in size to Scotland. In the financial memorandum, it states that it is expected that 25 people will have an assisted death in the first twelve months. We think this is likely to underestimate the number of people who would choose to access the service, which means the overall cost of the service could be a lot higher.

3 If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

Not applicable

4 Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill's estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

No, see answer to question 2, page 2.