

Response ID ANON-D24X-6HK8-3

Submitted to Assisted Dying - Private Members' Bill
Submitted on 2023-01-26 12:20:57

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
Nigel Parker

2 What is your email address?

Email:
director@catholicunion.org.uk

3 Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

4 If you answered "yes" to the previous question please state which organisation

Organisation:
Catholic Union of Great Britain

5 Are you responding as an individual or a group?

Individual

6 Are you resident on the Isle of Man?

No

7 May we publish your response?

Yes, you can publish my response in full

Support for Proposal

8 In principal, do you agree or disagree that assisted dying should be permitted for terminally ill adults on the Isle of Man?

Disagree

Please explain the reasons for your response:

The proposals set out in this consultation on Dr Allinson's Private Members' Bill clearly relate to assisted suicide, not assisted dying. Assisting someone to die takes many forms, including palliative care provided by doctors and nurses as well as spiritual support provided by priests and other ministers of religion. Assisted suicide is the deliberate act of helping to end another person's life.

Indeed, the proposals in this consultation constitute one of the most extreme versions of assisted suicide anywhere in the world. Permitting people who are not terminally ill to seek assisted suicide, and allowing lethal medication to be collected over the counter of pharmacies, are both deeply worrying.

The Catholic Union is resolutely opposed to the introduction of assisted suicide in any form, including the this Private Members' Bill on the Isle of Man. This position is based on the clear imperative in natural law, which is reflected in the teaching of the Catholic Church.

This teaching is the product of two thousand years of careful thought and deliberation on human flourishing. It forms part of the wider body of work known as Catholic Social Teaching, which has at its heart the understanding that human beings possess intrinsic value.

We strongly encourage Members of Tynwald to focus on improving palliative care for people on the Isle of Man, and making healthcare provision better able to support the needs of an ageing population. This should be the focus of politicians in all parts of the British Isles as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic.

9 Do you think that there should be a limit on their life expectancy?

Not Answered

10 Do you support the provision of assisted dying for someone who has a condition which causes unbearable suffering that cannot be alleviated by other means but which may not give a terminal diagnosis?

No

11 If they are unable to take oral medication should a health care professional be permitted to administer medication intravenously to achieve death?

No

Eligibility

12 Do you agree that assisted dying should be available only to people over the age of 18 Years?

Not Answered

13 Should they have to be permanent residents of the Isle of Man?

Not Answered

14 If you agree they should be permanent residents please state for how long.

Not Answered

If you have ticked "Other", please provide some details:

Process

15 Do you agree with the proposal that two different doctors should meet with the person independently and establish they are mentally competent to make an informed decision without pressure or coercion?

Not Answered

16 Should any health professional be able to conscientiously object to being part of an assisted dying programme?

Yes

17 Do you agree that if either doctor is unsure about the person's capacity to request an assisted death, the person should be referred to a psychiatrist for a further capacity assessment?

Not Answered

18 Do you agree that the two doctors should ensure that the person has been fully informed of palliative, hospice and other treatment and care options?

Yes

19 Do you support the proposal that the person signs a written declaration of their request, which is witnessed and signed by both doctors?

Not Answered

20 Do you agree that there should be a waiting period of 14 days from this time to the provision of life ending medication to allow the person to reconsider their decision?

Not Answered

21 Do you feel that this period should be shortened to 7 days if the person is expected to die within 30 days?

Not Answered

22 Should the person themselves or a relative be able to collect the relevant medication from a designated pharmacist?

No

23 Should this be able to be stored securely in the person's home until they decide whether they want to take it or not?

No

24 If they change their mind should the medication be returned to the pharmacy immediately?

Not Answered

25 Should a health care professional be required to be with the patient once they have taken the medication until they are certified to have died?

Not Answered

26 Should an annual report be produced regarding the number of people who have taken advantage of assisted dying, and be published?

Yes

27 Should it be possible to include the provision of assisted dying in a "living will" or advanced directive?

No

28 Do you have any comments on the process to provide Assisted Dying which will be included in the draft Bill

Any other comments...: