End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill
Jonathan Twynam-Perkins

Question 1 Do you agree a person should be able to request end of life assistance from a registered medical practitioner?

NO, as a future medical practitioner I have had no training on how to perform physician assisted suicide/euthanasia, and to cause death is contrary to the values of being a doctor and notably to do no harm.

Question 2 Are you satisfied with the requirements for age and connection with Scotland as set out in the Bill?

NO There is a possibility those who had relatives in Scotland could use their address to register.

Question 3 Are you satisfied with the two categories of people who would qualify to be assisted under the terms of the Bill?

NO intollerability is a very hard to define term and a certain patient could be considered to have both a tolerable and an intolerable life depending on which doctor sees them. In addition there are many illnesses which are terminal, where would the line be drawn and what exactly does live independently mean there are many elderly people who rely on someone to make meals but enjoy independence on all other aspects of life, how many people live a truly independent life?

Question 4 The Bill outlines a several stage consent and verification process that would be required to be followed for an eligible person to receive end of life assistance. Are you satisfied with this process?

NO the deadlines appear arbitrary where is the evidence base for these lengths of time.

Question 5 Do you consider the level and nature of safeguards as set out in the Bill to be appropriate?

NO Having heard from Ms MacDonald (when she spoke at Edinburgh Medical School) I was not reassured, and the nature of these safeguards was not clearly set out.

Question 6 Do you have any other considerations on the Bill not included in answers to the above questions?

There is no thought to how the process would be carried out, the financial burden and the need for training. Many of the processes and safeguards have no evidence base.
Having seen palliative care (at the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice) it is clear to me the great work they do and how they can give people a dignified passing, although there is much work to be done in both that and our care of the elderly.

I feel this bill is a further sign of our societies disregard and neglect of the elderly, which should be tackled instead of providing a method for them to be euthanised through compassionate and holistic care and palliation.

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