End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill
Dr Peter Stevenson Murdoch

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

No, absolutely no one should have the right to seek help to kill themselves especially from a medical practitioner. This is against the opinion of the vast majority of doctors who believe it would undermine the relationship between patient and doctor.

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

No- unacceptable to facilitate killing other humans at all ages

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

No unacceptable to facilitate killing of any person.

The Bill outlines a several stage consent and verification process. Are you satisfied with this process?

No- this is unacceptable whatever the process or reasons given

Have you any other considerations?

Yes The Bill undermines trust in the medical profession. No one should deliberately kill another.

This would place burdens on frail and elderly in particular to “stop being a burden”

It is open to abuse

It would be used as an excuse not to provide good palliative care and anticipatory care which has been hitherto promoted in Scotland. I have, as a Fellow of Glasgow and Edinburgh Royal Colleges of Physicians and as a NHS consultant physician for over 28 years caring for older people and with a particular interest in dementia and palliative care, seen that there highest standards of care can facilitate relief of distressing end of life symptoms in the overwhelming majority of dying patients.

Please do not legalise any form of assisted suicide or euthanasia. Such a step would negate all the proud achievements of the Scottish parliament and all those who campaigned over many years for this, prove totally unworkable,
demoralise those who work in the NHS and let down the most vulnerable in our society.

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