

Cross-Party Group on end-of-life choices

10th December 2024 (AGM) 6pm (in person/online)

Minute

Present:

22 non-MSP members in person.

11 non-MSP members online.

MSPs:

Rona MacKay MSP
Rachael Hamilton MSP
Liam McArthur MSP
George Adam MSP
Maggie Chapman MSP
Douglas Lumsden MSP
Elena Whitham MSP

Agenda Item 1: Welcome, introductions and apologies

Rona MacKay MSP expressed her gratitude to attendees. No apologies were received.

Agenda item 2: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting (Sept 2024) were circulated. Rona MacKay MSP proposed the minutes and Peter Warren seconded.

Agenda item 3: Matters arising

None

Agenda item 4: Year in Review

This year, the Group's attention was focused on the progression of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill and progress across the UK to legislate for access to assisted dying for terminally ill people.

The Group met in April 2024, following the recent publication of Liam McArthur's Assisted Dying For Terminally Ill Adults Bill in the Scottish Parliament, where it heard from Liam McArthur MSP about the details of the Bill and the expected scrutiny process.

The Group also received an update from Dignity in Dying (DID) and Friends At The End (FATE) on the media coverage received around the time of the Bill's publication, as well as polling showing high and widespread public support for a change in the law across every Scottish Parliamentary constituency and region.

The Group met again in September 2024 to receive a further update on progress with Liam McArthur's Bill, with the Health Committee at the time having just completed its public call for evidence, ahead of the selection of witnesses to participate in its oral evidence sessions.

DID also updated the Group on the various efforts to legalise assisted dying across the UK, including plans for a Bill in Westminster. DID advised of ongoing work to legalise assisted dying internationally and in neighbouring legislatures across the British Isles, including a potential vote in the island of Guernsey in 2025.

A Q&A followed for approx. 40 minutes.

Agenda item 5: Election of Office Bearers

Rona Mackay MSP as Convener

Rachael Hamilton MSP as Deputy

Dr Amanda Ward as Secretary

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 30th September 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.
