

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Ref: MA/JB/01

Date: 24/01/2025

Dear Convener

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Social Services Council is the regulator for the social work, social care and children and young people workforce in Scotland. Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social services being provided by a trusted, skilled, confident and valued workforce.

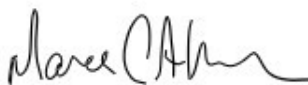
We protect the public by registering this workforce, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.

We have noted that a number of respondents to the consultation have highlighted that, should this Bill proceed, social workers, mental health officers and social care workers will play a critical role in the assisted dying process.

As the professional regulator of the social work and social care workforce we have a statutory responsibility to ensure the workforce are educated, developed and supported to fulfil their roles, and we are required to take action if their fitness to practise is impaired. The enactment of the proposed legislation would require us to undertake work reviewing our standards, guidance and procedures to reflect the workforce's role and may increase our regulatory work.

We also particularly note the comments of the Scottish Association of Social Work's letter of 9 January 2025, highlighting the specific role of social workers and Mental Health Officers in determining capacity and safeguarding vulnerable adults.

Yours sincerely,



Maree Allison
Chief Executive, Scottish Social Services Council