



ADSS Cymru

Yn arwain Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol yng Nghymru
Leading Social Services in Wales

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Dear Peter,

RE: Legislative Consent Memorandum – Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to submit views on the Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) laid by the Welsh Government in relation to the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, currently progressing through the UK Parliament.

ADSS Cymru welcomes the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill and its devolved implications. Our members have considered the relevant clauses in detail and convened initial discussions via our All-Wales Adult Services Heads (AWASH) network.

We recognise the sensitive and complex nature of this legislation. While traditionally framed within a clinical context, the Bill introduces considerable implications for social care practice, safeguarding, professional ethics, commissioning, and workforce development in Wales. Our observations on the relevant clauses are as follows:

Clause 37: Role of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales in issuing guidance

We support the inclusion of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales in developing guidance. However, we recommend that this be explicitly framed as a multi-agency responsibility involving Directors of Social Services, safeguarding leads, and representatives from third sector palliative and advocacy services. The inclusion of social care expertise will ensure that guidance is appropriately holistic and grounded in real-world experience of working with people at end of life. ADSS Cymru would welcome the opportunity to help shape this work.

We also recommend that the CMO's guidance be aligned with statutory safeguarding duties and Codes of Practice under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, as well as Welsh Government's current palliative care policy framework.

Clause 39: Welsh Ministers' powers to regulate voluntary assisted dying services

We agree that Welsh Ministers should have the powers to establish and regulate voluntary assisted dying (VAD) services. These powers must be developed in close collaboration with local authorities, social care providers, and health boards to ensure equity of access, safeguarding robustness, and cultural competence.

Regulations should clarify expectations around eligibility assessments, workforce training (including on coercion, capacity and trauma-informed care), and how VAD interacts with existing social care pathways and palliative support. We note from the UK Government's own Impact Assessment that there may be financial and workforce impacts on domiciliary care and care home provision, particularly for small and rural providers.

Clause 45: Role of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Commissioner

While the Commissioner is appointed by the UK Government, we note the requirement for them to consult with the Chief Medical Officer for Wales and report to Welsh Ministers. This is welcome, but we also believe it is essential that the Commissioner's office includes Welsh-based representation and expertise, particularly on safeguarding, ethics and equality issues and legislation relevant to Wales.

ADSS Cymru supports a clear role for social workers in the Assisted Dying Review Panels, recognising our profession's unique lens on understanding individual personal capacity, coercion, individual wellbeing and best interests. However, we echo the concerns raised by British Association of Social Workers (BASW) that the Bill does not currently afford social workers the same rights of legal protection and conscientious objection as health professionals.¹

Clause 47: Language accessibility in English and Welsh

We support the provisions ensuring that information, declarations and eligibility certificates must be available in Welsh and English. This reflects the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards and supports informed consent. We also urge that future guidance and service frameworks address wider communication needs, including Easy Read, BSL, and culturally sensitive materials for people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Clause 50: Senedd oversight of regulations

We are satisfied that the requirement for Senedd Cymru approval of regulations relating to Wales is an appropriate and proportionate safeguard. Given the complexity and sensitivity of these services, we support affirmative procedures for any regulations made under Clause 39 or Clause 54.

Clause 54: Commencement procedures and phased implementation

¹ Written evidence submitted by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW), February 2025 (as accessed on 11 June 2025). [Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill \(3rd February 2025\)](#)

We note the proposed arrangement allowing Welsh Ministers to determine the commencement date in Wales, subject to Senedd approval. This flexibility is vital and respects devolved competence. However, we urge the Committee and Welsh Government to consider the operational challenges that may arise if the provisions come into force at different times in England and Wales.

ADSS Cymru would not support the early implementation of VAD in Wales without a full and costed implementation plan, agreed guidance, and training frameworks for the social care workforce. This should also address the impacts identified in the UK Government's Impact Assessment, such as service shifts in domiciliary care, safeguarding resource needs, and workforce wellbeing.

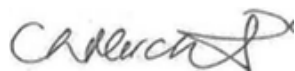
Conclusion and Next Steps

This Bill poses significant professional, ethical, and operational questions for social care services in Wales. While ADSS Cymru remains neutral on the moral arguments, we believe that the voice of social care must be clearly represented in shaping the safeguards, implementation, and workforce planning associated with this legislation.

We are establishing an internal working group of social care leaders to continue examining the implications of the Bill and we would be pleased to engage further with the Committee and with Welsh Government officials if the legislation is successful, as more detailed regulations and guidance will need to be developed.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to contribute.

Yours Sincerely,



Claire Marchant
Cadeirydd, ADSS Cymru