



SCOTLAND

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Via email@ HSCS.committee@parliament.scot

16 December 2024

Dear Convener,

RCGP ASSISTED DYING MEMBERSHIP CONSULTATION 2019

I am writing to respond to the committee request for the Scottish breakdown of the results of the RCGP Assisted Dying Membership Consultation, carried out in 2019. The Scottish results very closely mirrored those of the UK, and for the committee's interest, we have provided them below as an appendix to this letter. At the time of conducting this survey, the breakdown of results by nation was not made public, as the College was surveying members at a UK level for a UK wide position. We would therefore request that the information provided to the committee in the appendix be kept confidential.

In November 2024, the RCGP's UK governing Council voted to mandate the College to undertake a new all-member survey to inform a future UK Council decision on the College's in principle stance on the legalisation of assisted dying. This will also be a UK wide position. Until the review process concludes, the College's position remains the one that was adopted by Council in 2020, that the RCGP is opposed to a change in the law to legalise assisted dying. RCGP Scotland will continue to engage constructively with the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill while this consultation is undertaken.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Provan'.

Dr Chris Provan
Chair of RCGP Scotland

APPENDIX

RCGP Assisted Dying Membership Consultation 2019 Results

The consultation was carried out by Savanta ComRes and received 819 responses from Scotland, and 6,674 across the UK, between 29 October and 15 December 2019.

Data were weighted to be representative of the RCGP membership in the UK by member grade and early career status. Savanta ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

Across the UK, under current laws in each country, assisted dying is illegal. The Royal College of General Practitioners has decided to consult its members on what its position on assisted dying should be. The College takes positions on significant ethical issues to ensure that it can influence the debate around government policy in the best interests of its members and our patients.		
Please select one of the following statements:		
	UK	Scotland
The RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying	46%	46%
The RCGP should support a change in the law on assisted dying, providing there is a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguarding processes in place	41%	42%
The RCGP should be neutral on the topic of the law on assisted dying	10%	12%
I wish to abstain	2%	1%