



States Greffe

Deputy Tom Binet, Minister for Health and Social Services

BY EMAIL

8th April 2024

Dear Minister,

**Assisted Dying Review Panel:
Public Hearing Follow-Up Questions**

Thank you for attending the [Public Hearing](#) with the [Assisted Dying Review Panel](#) on Wednesday 3rd April 2024.

Further to the Public Hearing, the Panel has reviewed the hearing transcript and considered the responses received, and should be grateful if you could provide responses to the following additional questions, by close of business on **Wednesday 10th April 2024** if possible:

Palliative and end of life care:

1. The Panel notes that the End-of-Life Care Partnership Group will be ‘re-constituted’, and the ‘Action Plan’ for the [Palliative Care and End of Life Care Strategy for Adults in Jersey 2023-2026’ \(Strategy\)](#) will require review and agreement. Please can you confirm the status of the End-of-Life Care Partnership Group?
 - a) Who will be a member of this group and has this changed from previously?
 - b) Please can you provide more information about how the Strategy and the Action Plan will be monitored and kept under review by the End-of-Life Care Partnership Group?
 - c) Is there a timeline in place for reviewing and agreeing the ‘Action Plan’?
 - d) How many officers will resource this work and is this sufficient? Who will have Ministerial oversight and how will Council of Ministers and the Assembly be kept informed?

2. The Panel also notes that three out of the six ‘Success Criteria’ for the Strategy are highlighted as ‘Current / Ongoing’ and three as ‘Not Started’ in the Action Plan. Please can you provide more information about the progress of these criteria marked as ‘Current / Ongoing’?
 - a) Please can you provide more information about the timeframe for commencing

the criteria marked as 'Not Started'?

- b) The Panel understand that the Strategy spans three years. Please can you provide more information about how the provision of palliative and end of life care will be prioritised and demonstrated beyond the Strategy?
 - c) Given that Jersey has an ageing population, how will this impact on the Strategy and the amount of funding needed to maintain services at an adequate level?
3. During the Public Hearing it was advised that the Strategy is *"a long-term strategy, they will not have met all those targets by that point in time [by the time legislation is enacted]"*. Which targets will be prioritised to evidence the quality and accessibility of palliative and end of life care services?
4. What metrics are needed to demonstrate the quality and accessibility of palliative and end of life care services in Jersey, by the time the assisted dying legislation is brought forward for debate by the States Assembly?

Eligibility Criteria:

5. The Panel notes that the [Phase 2 consultation](#) on assisted dying received a *"...number of written responses from stakeholders focused on the inclusion of unbearable suffering in the eligibility criteria"*. Please can you provide a percentage breakdown of the responses from the Phase 2 consultation, both in favour and against the inclusion of Route 2?
- a) How was stakeholder feedback from the Phase 2 consultation on assisted dying regarding the inclusion of Route 2, considered during the development of the final proposals?
6. The Panel also notes that the Ethical Review recommended against the inclusion of Route 2. Please can you describe how the recommendation of the Ethical Review, against the inclusion of Route 2, was considered during the development of the final proposals?
- a) How was the evidence provided by the Ethical Review factored into this process?
7. The Panel was informed during the Public Hearing that if Route 2 is approved, the Government would look at *"how to support additional awareness of ableist views being imposed on people with a disability and their quality of life"*. Please can you provide more details about how you would support additional awareness regarding ableist views of people with disabilities and their quality of life?
- a) Would this work be in addition to existing assisted dying training or guidance to be developed in relation to ableism?

Safeguards:

8. The Panel note that the Proposition asks States Members to request the Minister to bring forward legislation and establish an assisted dying service in accordance with the essential provisions and safeguards, outlined in the appendix. Please can you clarify the use of the term 'essential'?
 - a) Please can you clarify whether the essential provisions include all of the safeguards?
9. The final proposals also set out that mandatory training in assessing capacity regarding assisted dying will be developed for assisted dying practitioners. Please can you confirm how this training will be tailored to assisted dying?
 - a) Please can you confirm whether existing guidance on capacity and consent will be used to inform this training?
10. The Panel understands that Administering Practitioners with direct involvement in assisted dying will be Level 1 doctors or registered nurses. Please can you confirm the level of experience (in years) required of doctors and registered nurses to undertake the Administering Practitioner role?

Training and Guidance:

11. The Panel understands that there are some *"big policy questions that need to be asked and answered"* regarding training and guidance. Please can you provide an overview of these areas of policy?
12. The Panel was informed that *"some very preliminary conversations with some of the professional oversight bodies in the UK who develop clinical training"* had taken place. Please can you confirm the planning that has taken place to develop a training programme and guidance regarding assisted dying?
 - a) When will the development of the detail of the training programme and guidance commence?
13. The Panel notes that in addition to the draft Law on assisted dying, *"a very detailed summary of what the training programme would look like, how it would work, what the modules would be"*, would be included. Please can you specify the items of training and guidance that will be provided as part of this summary?
 - a) How will the development of the items of training and guidance be prioritised?
 - b) The Panel notes that the draft Law *"might not have all the detail of guidance"*. When do you anticipate that the detail all the training and guidance will be made available?

Funding and Resourcing:

14. Minister, the Panel understands that Government Plan will need to provide additional funding for the Jersey Assisted Dying Service. If the full funding request is not approved or is reduced, how will impacts on service delivery be mitigated?
 - a) How will impacts on service delivery be mitigated if funding is reduced in future Government Plans?
15. Please can you provide more information about the 'one off' costs of £363,607 associated with the item called 'Implementation'?
16. Please can you provide more information about the 'one off' implementation costs of £155,000 associated with the item called 'Jersey Assisted Dying Service'?
17. Please can you provide more information about the 'one off' implementation costs of £112,192 associated with the item called 'Regulation, oversight, approval'?
18. Minister, please can you describe how you intend to focus the implementation period on recruitment and training of on-Island opt-in professionals?
19. If UK-based staff are contracted to work for the Jersey Assisted Dying Service, what impact will this have on the staff costs, including training and salaries?
20. The Panel notes recent recruitment and staffing challenges across the Health and Community Services Department. Minister, please can you explain how you intend to respond to these challenges in relation to the provision of the Jersey Assisted Dying Service?
21. Minister, if no assisted dying service is available due to a lack of necessary staff. Please can you describe the process that would be followed if an assisted dying service was not possible due to staffing issues?
22. Please can you clarify why the potential risk of the assisted dying service not being operational is not also present on the currently identified list of risks?
23. Please can you confirm whether funding will be made available for counselling services for bereaved family members?
 - a) Which organisation will be responsible for delivering the counselling services?

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Louise Doublet
Chair
Assisted Dying Review Panel