



States Greffe

Deputy Tom Binet
Minister for Health and Social Services

BY EMAIL

14th April 2026

Dear Minister,

Assisted Dying Review Panel: Ministerial Response

The Panel wishes to thank you and your Officers for the careful and thorough consideration given to the Panel's Findings and Recommendations arising from its report on the Assisted Dying Legislation.

The Panel has reviewed the Ministerial Response in detail and would appreciate clarification on a small number of matters to support its understanding of the proposed approach as implementation progresses.

Finding 4 Access to Specialist Palliative Care Assessment

The Panel notes that the Minister's Second Amendment strengthens safeguards by requiring assessment for end-of-life care options. However, the legislation does not specify that such assessments must be undertaken by a clinician with specialist palliative care expertise. This creates some uncertainty as to whether access to specialist palliative assessment will be consistently available as part of standard practice.

To assist the Panel, further detail would be welcomed on:

- How access to palliative care assessments will be offered in practice;
- The anticipated pathway for individuals requiring such assessments;
- The availability of specialist palliative care clinicians, including anticipated coverage (for example, out-of-hours provision);
- How assurance will be provided that individuals are able to access appropriate specialist expertise when required.

The Panel also notes the planned post-implementation review after three years. It would be helpful to understand whether data could be collected as part of this review on:

- The professional background of clinicians undertaking these assessments;
- Whether assessments were carried out by palliative care specialists;
- Whether individuals requested specialist assessment and, if so, the timeframes for access.

In relation to **Recommendation 5**, which the Minister has accepted, the Panel notes the intention to include a definition within guidance. The Panel would welcome confirmation as to

whether the guidance will also set out the relevant care pathway and operational arrangements.

Finding 7 Experience Requirements for Administering Practitioners

The Panel notes that the experience requirements for Administering Practitioners are not currently specified in the draft legislation. Evidence presented to the Panel highlighted concerns regarding practitioner competence, particularly in relation to newly qualified clinicians undertaking complex roles, and the potential implications for public confidence.

The Panel notes the statement in the Ministerial Response that, *“whilst the competency requirements will be confirmed by the Committee during the implementation phase, it is anticipated that only practitioners with considerable experience will have the required skills and capabilities to meet the requirements for registration.”*

Further clarification would be appreciated on:

- What is meant by “considerable experience”, including whether this will be defined in terms of years of practice or other criteria; and
- Whether the final competency requirements, once determined, will be shared with the relevant scrutiny panel.

Finding 20 Financial Model and Budget Assumptions

The Panel notes that the current financial model for the assisted dying service remains indicative and is based on high-level assumptions. Evidence received indicated that the Budget 2026–29 allocations were developed prior to a fully detailed financial impact assessment, with key cost drivers — including governance, workforce capacity, inflation, training, and digital infrastructure — still to be fully defined.

The Panel would welcome further information on:

- How the financial model is being developed as implementation planning progresses; and
- Whether additional detail on budget assumptions and emerging cost pressures can be provided to the relevant scrutiny panel at an early stage.

The Panel is grateful for your engagement on these matters and looks forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Louise Doublet
Chair
Assisted Dying Review Panel