

Ministerial Offices | Union Street
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Deputy Louise Doublet
Chair, Assisted Dying Review Panel
BY EMAIL

05 January 2026

Dear Chair,

Assisted Dying Law – Scrutiny Panel Advisers' Report

Thank you for your letter of 15 December 2025.

I fully recognise the complexity of the proposed legislation and the importance of rigorous scrutiny; indeed, that was the very reason I previously agreed to the Panel's request to defer the debate to 20 January 2026 in order to provide 20 weeks lodging period.

To defer the debate a second time till 24 February 2026 would extend the lodging period to 25 weeks – almost 6 months post-lodging on 2 September 2025, and 8.5 months since the Panel was provided an initial draft of the Assisted Dying Law on 6 June 2025. This is in marked contrast to the 5 months taken to draft the actual Law.

It is also important to note that deferring a second time is in marked contrast to your letter of 19 September 2025, when you assured us that if we delay to 20 January 2026 *“the Review Panel is confident it can complete its work within this time frame and confirm that every effort will be made to ensure that all deadlines are met”*.

As you know, assisted Dying is a subject of profound public interest, and a timely debate is essential to maintaining public confidence and to meeting public expectations that the States Assembly will consider the draft law within this political term.

Hence, I have discussed the Panel's request for a further delay with the Council of Ministers, and based on that discussion, I'm unable to agree to a further deferral as such a delay would imperil the prospect of this Assembly debating the Law before the elections.

I acknowledge that proceeding with the debate on 20 January 2026 may require the Panel to exercise its right under Standing Order 72 and to refer the matter back to conclude its work, noting that this is contrary to your previous assurances. Should the Panel take this course of action, I trust that you will ensure the draft law will be brought back to the Assembly at the sitting commencing 24 February, thereby avoiding the need to consider this law any closer to the pre-election period.

Whilst I am unable to agree your request, I do wish to reiterate that I welcome the Panel's work and its commitment to robust scrutiny, and I encourage the Panel to share its findings as soon as possible so that Members and the public can consider them ahead of the scheduled sitting.

Thank you for your invitation to discuss your Advisers' Report and associated proposed amendments. I understand that the Panel was unable to meet me before January owing to Members' holiday over the Christmas period, but I would welcome an opportunity to meet as soon as possible.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your officers in preparation for the forthcoming debate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Binet', with a stylized, cursive script.

Deputy Tom Binet
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