

Correspondence via email to Panel Officer k.camara2@gov.je

4 November 2025

Dear Deputy Doublet,

Thank you for inviting the Jersey Care Commission (the Commission) to contribute to the Assisted Dying Review Panel's consultation on the Draft Assisted Dying Law (Jersey) 202–. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Government of Jersey policy team for ensuring that the Commission received regular and informative briefings throughout the drafting process.

1. Alignment of the Draft Law with the Underpinning Principles

The Commission is of the view that the Draft Assisted Dying Law demonstrates alignment with the principles endorsed by the States Assembly, including autonomy and choice, voluntariness, the continued role of palliative care, professional integrity, the distinction from suicide, and family support. The emphasis placed on individual autonomy enables individuals to make informed and voluntary decisions regarding end-of-life care.

It may, however, be of value considering whether the legislation could be further enhanced through greater clarity on the assessment of “unbearable suffering” and the integration of palliative care services, in order to promote consistency and robustness in patient support.

2. Safeguarding of Individuals Accessing or Providing an Assisted Dying Service

International evidence suggests that robust oversight mechanisms are essential to safeguarding. The Commission believes that the Draft Law incorporates multiple safeguards for both individuals and healthcare professionals, including:

- clear eligibility criteria,
- voluntary participation for professionals, and
- procedural checks through medical confirmation, independent review, and independent regulatory oversight by the Jersey Care Commission.



The fact that these safeguards are proposed to be enshrined in primary legislation is welcomed, as it would ensure that any future amendments would require a full legislative process. This, in our view, would also help guard against incremental expansion without appropriate public and Ministerial scrutiny.

We suggest that the Draft Law may also be further strengthened by explicitly requiring the involvement of palliative care specialists in the assessment process and by mandating that all palliative care options are fully explored prior to proceeding. In other jurisdictions, the inclusion of clear referral points to palliative care services helps ensure these pathways remain integral, thereby supporting informed choice and enhancing patient well-being.

3. Ethical Considerations in the Draft Law

The ethical framework underpinning the Draft Law appears to strike a considered balance between respect for individual autonomy and the protection of life. The Commission is of the view that the principles of dignity, compassion, and non-coercion are appropriately embedded throughout the legislation.

Conclusion

The Commission considers that the Draft Assisted Dying Law (Jersey) 202– is consistent with the guiding principles approved by the States Assembly.

The Jersey Care Commission welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this important review and remains available to provide further clarification or comment as required.

Yours sincerely

Becky Sherrington
Chief Inspector

Cc. Dr Nigel Acheson, Chairperson, Jersey Care Commission.
Deputy Steven Luce, Environment Minister.