

From: calvin.bailey.mp@parliament.uk

Date: 18 October 2024 at 12:07:32 BST

To:

Subject: Proposed legislation on assisted dying (Case Ref: CB2402)

Dear Martin,

Thank you for contacting me about assisted dying. This is going to be a very complex and emotive issue and I know there are strongly held ethical and moral views on both sides of the debate.

Successive governments, of both parties, have taken the position that the law on assisted suicide is a matter of conscience for individual MPs. The Prime Minister has confirmed that any change in the law on assisted dying will not happen via a Government Bill. A change can only be made via a Private Members' Bill (PMB); that is a Bill introduced by a backbench MP or Peer, such as the one selected by Kim Leadbeater MP. My colleague's Bill is scheduled to begin its Parliamentary consideration on 29 November.

My decision on this and any other such Bill will be a pragmatic one based on the quality of the policy and the supporting infrastructure and resource that enable the proposals made. I have no ideological position either way, and will support efforts to recognise the concerns that people have on both sides to try to achieve the widest possible consensus and to ensure that the vulnerable remain protected regardless of the chosen outcome. In my view, if the law does change, it is vital that we include strong and proper safeguards.

Further, I believe that, regardless of what happens with proposed changes to the law, assisted dying should not become an alternative to high-quality palliative and end of life care. I believe that all of us involved with this debate agree that people deserve dignity in dying, and each person nearing the end of their life should feel reassured and safe in the knowledge they will receive the very best care.

Thank you for engaging with me on this very difficult matter. I will continue to read every message on this matter and they will all go to shape my decision when and if the time comes.

Kind regards,

Calvin

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