

**Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021**

**Submission No.:** 654  
**Submitted by:** Ruth Ferguson  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Position:** I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Oversight and review  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

The membership of the Assisted Dying Review Board is not an independent body.

The draft bill states 'The board consists of at least 5, but not more than 9 members appointed by the Minister.'

This is open to any amount of bias and corruption, as any government may have a stance on the principle of assisted dying.

The board members appointed by the Minister may then impose those views on their decisions.

The Minister needs to ensure that ALL members of the Board, including the Chairperson, have no political alliance and are totally independent in their thinking so that no political coercion is permitted.

The Minister must appoint a non-partisan committee to assist in selecting suitable persons for these highly responsible roles.