

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

**Submission No.:** 1162  
**Submitted by:** Name withheld  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Eligibility criteria\* ,Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

The time has come for this compassionate option to be available for those who want it. I've seen friends and relations get to a point of life where it hugely distressing for both them and their caring family. It's hard to erase last memories of loved ones suffering and undignified. I wouldn't want to put my daughter through seeing me in that state and would rather be remembered exiting with dignity.

I wonder if the 12-month life expectancy is too restrictive for those who may have hugely distressing symptoms before that? I'm thinking MND and possibly some cancers? And will doctors be too conservative in their life expectancy judgements, erring on the side of overestimating, pushing people to the limits and still denying a dignified decision. It's obviously very complex to manage and I haven't followed all the fine print of how the process will happen but I think it's legislation we may need to test in real-world situations and revise later if people who deserve the option are being denied.

Can the approval process happen quickly enough for those who diagnosed quite late and may be losing cognitive capacity soon (brain tumour?)

It should be enshrined as a human right that cannot be over-ridden by, for instance, a hospital funded by religious interests. And it should be accessible equally in remote and regional areas. Individual medical staff who are conscientious objectors should be able to opt out of being involved but institutions should make arrangements to support the individual's right to voluntary assisted dying by employing non-objectors where necessary.