



# Ipsos Assisted Dying polling

March 2022

**The below information was given to respondents before they answered the questions in this survey.**

The next few questions are about assisted dying in the UK.

Assisted dying refers to a patient aged 18 or over being provided with life-ending medication if at least two doctors think that all the following conditions were met:

- The patient would need to be of sound mind,
- The patient would be terminally ill and it is believed that they have 6 months or less to live,
- The patient would have made a voluntary, clear and settled decision to end their life (and made and signed a declaration to that effect in the presence of a witness), with time to consider all other options.
- The patient has been resident in the country for at least a year.
- The High Court confirms it is satisfied that these conditions have been met.
- If the conditions are met, a health professional may help to prepare and assist with the medication, but the decision to self-administer the medicine and the final act of doing so must be taken by the patient themselves.

Assisted dying is not currently legal in the UK.

# Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a terminally ill patient in ending their life by prescribing life ending medication?

Do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged 18 or over in ending their life in this way, if that is the patient's wish, provided that the patient is terminally ill (where it is believed that they have 6 months or less to live), of sound mind, and expresses a clear desire to end their life?\*

**Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves**

**No, it should not be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves**



Base: 1,050 Online British adults aged 16-75, 25-26 February 2022. Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).

# Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a terminally ill patient in ending their life by administering life ending medication?

Do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged 18 or over in ending their life, by the doctor administering life-ending medication, provided that the patient is terminally ill (where it is believed that they have 6 months or less to live), of sound mind, and expresses a clear desire to end their life?\*

**Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to administer life ending medication**

**No, it should not be legal for a doctor to administer life-ending medication**



**Base:** 1,050 Online British adults aged 16-75, 25-26 February 2022. Including those aged 16-34 (276), 35-54 (404), 55-75 (370). Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).

# Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a not terminally patient in ending their life by prescribing life ending medication if they are...?

Do you think that it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient (of sound mind and aged 18 or over) in ending their life, if they are not terminally ill, but are physically suffering in a way that the patient finds unbearable and which cannot be cured or improved with existing medical science, and where the patient has expressed a clear desire to end their life? And do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient (of sound mind and aged 18 or over) in ending their life, if they are not terminally ill, but are mentally or emotionally suffering in a way that the patient finds unbearable and which cannot be cured or improved with existing medical science, and where the patient has expressed a clear desire to end their life?\*

Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves

No, it should not be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves

## If they are physically suffering



## If they are mentally suffering



Base: 1,050 Online British adults aged 16-75, 25-26 February 2022. Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).



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### For more information

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