

Assisted dying

Coping with terminal illness is of course hugely distressing and difficult, both for the patient and their family. These cases are truly moving and evoke the highest degree of compassion and emotion. Should the law in this area ever be altered, I believe it is neither a matter for Government to decide nor a matter for the judiciary, but ultimately a matter for Parliament, and individual MSPs in a free vote.

You may be aware that the original End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill was defeated at Stage 1 in the Scottish Parliament in 2010, and Margo MacDonald's Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill was also defeated in 2015.

Following the proposals lodged by Liam MacArthur MSP:

- **Option A:** If draft legislation comes before the Scottish Parliament, I will consider it carefully.
- **Option B:** I sympathise with your views and will consider any draft legislation presented in future.
- **Option C:** I would give any legislation presented in future my full consideration however I would find it difficult to support