

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

### Name of Cross-Party Group

### Cross-Party Group on End of Life Choices

**Date Group Established** (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

27<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Date Annual Return Submitted

11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Date of Preceding AGM** [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Group Meetings and Activities

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

At the first meeting of the CPG in Session six on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Liam McArthur MSP updated the CPG on his Bill proposal, advising that his public consultation was now live and encouraged members of the group to submit responses. The group, including eight MSPs and five non-MSPs, engaged in a lively discussion about some of the key issues around the process. Rona Mackay and Rachael Hamilton volunteered as co-conveners of the CPG, with Sorcha Hume from Friends at the End volunteering as secretary.

The meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 was equally well attended, with seven MSPs and twenty six interested members of the public. Liam again provided an update on his proposed Bill, advising the group that the consultation period had ended in December 2021 and that all responses would now be processed and summarised in a report with the help of NGBU. Presentations were given by Tom Shakespeare CBE, a social scientist and bioethicist with a special interest in disability studies as a disabled person himself, and Ben Colburn, professor of political philosophy at the University of Glasgow. Both speakers dispelled a number of myths around disabled people being vulnerable to assisted dying legislation and shared evidence to the contrary.

The meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 included a further update from Liam, who shared that the consultation responses were still being processed but that he had been working closely with campaign groups and a specially set up medical advisory group to consider some of the finer details of any proposed legislation. He noted that he was unable to give a timeline for when the consultation report would be completed as there were a number of moving parts but that he would keep the group updated. Presentations were given by Dr David Obree and Dr Sarah Kelly, medical ethicists from the University of Edinburgh who challenged the group to think about the assisted dying debate differently and urged campaigners on both sides to see where there similarities rather than differences lay. This meeting was attended by seven MSPs and twenty three non-MSPs.

Finally, at the AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Liam advised the group that the summary report for the public consultation on his proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill had been published earlier in the month. He shared that he would need at least 18 MSPs to sign his proposal in the following month and by the date of this meeting, he had received 36 signatures. After this month has passed, Liam will be able to begin drafting the legislation. A presentation was then given by Dr Jaimee Mallion, a psychologist from London South Bank University (LSBU) who shared the results of her quantitative research with people with terminal illnesses, family members whose loved ones had died a bad death or had travelled to Switzerland for an assisted death. She relayed the results of her research, summarising that participants desired an assisted death because it connected them with each of the eleven basic human needs, as in the Good Lives Model. In the words of one of her participants, "the problem was dying badly, the answer was dying well." Four MSPs and twenty five non-MSPs joined this meeting.

Ally Thomson (Dignity in Dying), Sorcha Hume (Friends at the End), Fraser Sutherland (Humanist Society Scotland) and Liam have been in talks and attending meetings with a steering group of MSPs, as well as working with other professionals. These discussions have covered assurances over safeguards for those seeking assisted death as a priority. There have also been various discussions with a medical advisory group and academics and clinicians overseas regarding progress they have experienced since Assisted Dying was legalised in their respective countries.

### **MSP Members of The Group**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

**Rona Mackay (SNP)**  
**Rachael Hamilton (Conservative)**  
**Karen Adam (SNP)**  
**Jackson Carlaw (Conservative)**  
**Katy Clark (Labour)**  
**Joe FitzPatrick (SNP)**  
**Meghan Gallacher (Conservative)**  
**Douglas Lumsden (Conservative)**  
**Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrats)**  
**Collette Stevenson (SNP)**  
**Evelyn Tweed (SNP)**  
**Elena Whitham (SNP)**  
**Maggie Chapman (Green)**

### **Non-MSP Members of The Group**

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

#### **Individuals**

Amanda Ward

Stacey Adam

Liz Currie

Alastair Moodie

Dr Hugh Wynne

Ben Colburn

Renée Blean

Guin Williams

Karen Rookwood

Jessie Reid

Dr Gillian MacDougall

Gordon Wyllie

Brian Taylor

Tom Lorimer

Gordon Drummond

Scott Kennedy

Brenda McGovern

Karin Currie

John Raven

Dr Raymond Dempsey

Rudi Vogels

Hilary Mounfield

Jane Hunter

Barbara Chalmers

Hilary Peppiette

Jane Duncan Rogers

	<p>Tessa Thomas</p> <p>Dr Michael Irwin</p> <p>Liz Nichols</p> <p>Dr Colin Brewer</p> <p>Tracey Taylor</p> <p>Marcos Freire de Andrade Neves</p> <p>Caroline Brocklehurst</p> <p>David Obree</p> <p>Sarah Kelly</p>
<p><b>Organisations</b></p>	<p>Friends at the End (FATE) - secretary</p> <p>Dignity in Dying (DiD)</p> <p>DmD Catalunya</p> <p>Doctors for Assisted Suicide</p> <p>Community Pharmacy Scotland</p> <p>CARE</p> <p>Cruse Scotland</p> <p>MDMD (My Death My Decision)</p> <p>Equality Council</p>
<p><b>Group Office Bearers</b></p> <p>Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have</p>	

more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

<b>Convener</b>	Rona Mackay and Rachael Hamilton (co-conveners)
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<b>Deputy Convener</b>	N/A
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<b>Secretary</b>	Dr Sorcha Hume, Friends at the End
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr Sorcha Hume, Friends at the End
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### **Financial Benefits or Other Benefits**

**Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.**

**N/A**

### **Convener Contact Details**

<b>Name</b>	Rona Mackay MSP / Rachael Hamilton MSP
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<b>Parliamentary address</b>	Rona Mackay MSP 18a Townhead Kirkintilloch G66 1NL  Rachael Hamilton MSP 7 Abbey Court Kelso TD5 7JA
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<b>Telephone number</b>	Rona Mackay MSP 0141 776 1561
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	<p>Rachael Hamilton MSP</p>
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