

Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill

Dr David O'Neill

Stage 1- Consideration of the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill

1. I agree with the general purpose of the bill.
2. I agree that those providing assistance under the conditions of the bill should be protected from prosecution as set out in the bill.
3. I think the declaration and request process is robust but have some doubts about the term 'life – shortening' which is a somewhat 'catch – all ' phrase which can be applied reasonably to a host of illnesses which might not affect quality – of – life catastrophically.
4. I think the role of medical practitioners is reasonably practical participation in the process might still be unacceptable to some for reasons of conscience.
5. I am not convinced that the police should have any role in this process except where non-adherence to the bill is suspected .

Dr David O'Neill