

Clare Haughey MSP
Convenor of the Health, Social Care and Sports Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Via email: hscs.committee@parliament.scot

11 April 2025

Dear Convenor,

UPDATE TO RCGP POSITION ON ASSISTED DYING

I am writing to update the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on a change of the Royal College of General Practitioner's (RCGP) position in relation to assisted dying. On 14 March 2025, the College's UK Council voted to move to a position of neither supporting nor opposing assisted dying being legal.

UK Council was asked to vote between the following options to determine RCGP's position. The RCGP's position was determined by the option that received the largest number of votes from UK Council. The results of the UK Council vote were:

- 39% said the RCGP should oppose assisted dying being legal
- 61% said the RCGP should move to a position of neither supporting nor opposing assisted dying being legal
- 0% said the RCGP should support assisted dying being legal, subject to an appropriate regulatory framework and safeguarding processes
- 0% abstained.

The UK Council debate and subsequent decision was informed by an all-member survey that ran between 24 January and 10 February 2025, which received 8,779 responses. This follows Council's decision in November 2024 that the RCGP should undertake a member survey to inform Council's review of the RCGP's in principle position on whether or not assisted dying should be legal.

This review of the RCGP's position on this issue was committed to by Council in September 2024, in light of significant developments in the legislative landscape in the UK and in the Crown Dependencies.

The College commissioned Savanta – a third-party independent research agency – to administer the member survey. The survey was in field between 24 January and 10 February 2025.

The full summary report from Savanta outlining the weighted survey results, which are publicly available on the RCPG website.

[RCGP Assisted Dying Members Survey results - Savanta Report \(February 2025\) \(PDF file, 688 KB\)](#)

I trust this information will be useful for the Committee's future deliberations.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Chris Provan
Chair of RCGP Scotland