



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Baroness Merron
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Women's Health and Mental Health*

*39 Victoria Street
London
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15 January 2026

Dear Syed,

Thank you for your closing remarks on day 5 of Committee Stage for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. This letter sets out the Government's response to the questions you raised. As you will be aware, the Government is neutral on this Bill, and on the policy of assisted dying, but I am pleased to address your points in more detail following the debate. I will address each of your points in turn.

First, you asked whether the Government believes that the clauses in the Bill, as it entered the Lords, address the concerns raised by the many probing amendments discussed in this group.

As you know, the Government remains neutral on this Bill, and it is for the Sponsors of the Bill, and Parliament, to decide the policy intent and content of the Bill. The amendments tabled by Peers in the group on palliative care covered a wide range of themes. The Government's workability concerns regarding these amendments were outlined by Baroness Levitt in response to the debate on behalf of the Government. This is in line with the Government's duty to the statute book to provide technical and legal advice in relation to the workability of the Bill.

Secondly, you sought confirmation that the Government is confident that palliative care will be sufficiently funded, so that those who may seek assisted dying services are offered a real, as opposed to theoretical, choice on palliative care to support them making a more informed decision.

Irrespective of any legislation on assisted dying, this government believes that everyone should have access to high-quality, compassionate care through to the end of their life, and this will remain a priority for the Government.

You may be interested to know that the Government is supporting the hospice sector with a £100 million capital funding boost for eligible adult and children's hospices in England, to ensure they have the best physical environment for care. This capital funding has recently been increased by a further £25 million. We are also providing children and young people's hospices with £26 million revenue funding for 2025/26. We can also confirm the continuation of children and young people's hospice funding of at least £26 million, as it will be adjusted for inflation, each year from 2026/27 to 2028/29 inclusive. This amounts to approximately £80m over the next three years.

The Government is also developing an all-age Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Modern Service Framework (MSF) for England. The MSF will drive improvements in the services that

patients and their families receive at the end of life and enable integrated care boards to address challenges in access, quality and sustainability through the delivery of high-quality, personalised care. The MSF will be published in Autumn 2026. This will be aligned with the ambitions set out in last year's 10-Year Health Plan. Through our MSF, we will closely monitor the shift towards strategic commissioning of palliative care and end of life care services to ensure that services reduce variation in access and quality.

The Government is aware patient and population need for palliative care and end-of-life care in England and Wales is rising, and that there is unmet need, inequity in access and variation in quality of provision for these services. Through these actions described above, we hope to ensure sustainable funding for palliative care and end –of life care sector in the long term.

I hope this letter has provided clarification on the queries you raised. I have copied this letter to all Peers who tabled amendments and/or spoke during the debate and will deposit a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gillian', with a stylized flourish underneath.

BARONESS MERRON