



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ARCHBISHOPS'
COUNCIL

To: Chaplains England
Chaplains Scotland
Chaplains Wales
Chaplains Northern Ireland
Anglican Bishop's Advisers
Roman Catholic Bishop's Advisers

Malcolm Brown
Mission & Public Affairs
Director

28 July 2015

Dear Chaplain,

You may be aware that a new attempt to change the law on assisted suicide will be debated by MPs in the House of Commons on Friday 11 September.

The Private Member's Bill, known as the Assisted Dying (no 2) Bill will seek to enable mentally competent terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to choose physician-assisted suicide.

The Church of England believes that legalising assisted suicide would fundamentally undermine the intrinsic value afforded to every person within society. A change in the law would place vulnerable people at risk, including the elderly and those living with disabilities.

The Rt Revd James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle, who is the Church of England's lead bishop on health care, has issued an appeal to churchgoers asking those who have concerns about the Bill to contact their MPs.

If you have any further questions about the proposed legislation, the Church of England has information and briefing materials on its website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-views/medical-ethics-health-social-care-policy/assisted-suicide.aspx>

For further details of the appeal by Bishop James and the chance to listen to an interview he has recorded on assisted suicide please see <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/07/churchgoers-urged-to-voice-concerns-over-assisted-suicide-bill.aspx> and <https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/assisted-suicide-01>

The Communications department of the Archbishops' Council would be very glad to hear from any chaplains who oppose a change in the law on assisted suicide and would like to be involved in the campaign against this new Bill. Please feel free to contact the

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communications department at comms@churchofengland.org or
cofe.comms@churchofengland.org or by calling 0207 898 1621.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Brown', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Malcolm Brown

Director of Mission and Public Affairs,
Archbishops' Council