



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Royal College of Radiologists asks members for views on Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill

UK Cancer specialists, who are members or Fellows of the Royal College of Radiologists, have responded to a survey on their attitude to proposed new legislation on Physician Assisted Suicide. Out of 249 responders, 189 (75.9%) felt that a change in legislation is not needed because good clinical care and a dignified death can be provided within existing legislation.

Responding to Lord Joffe's Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill, a further 13 (5.2%) were undecided, and 47 (18.9%) believed that a change in legislation is needed. When asked whether they would personally be prepared to participate actively in a process to enable a patient to terminate their life under the conditions outlined in the current draft legislation, 45 out of 249 (18.1%) replied that they would, 13 (5.2%) were undecided, and 179 (71.9%) felt that they would not be prepared to do it.

Dr Robin Hunter, Dean of the College's Faculty of Clinical Oncology, said, "The extensive debate that has gone on in the UK over the last two years does not appear to have convinced many of the UK's leading cancer specialists of a need for a change in legislation at this time. It is also worrying that if legislation is enacted the majority of cancer specialists surveyed would opt out. This would leave their patients in the unsatisfactory situation of being in conflict with their specialist, whom they may have known and trusted for some time, and it would force them to seek an Assisted Suicide service from a doctor who has not known them or their case for any length of time."

Notes to editors

1. For further information, contact the College's Communications Officer on 020 7299 1138, or email dan.garbutt@rcr.ac.uk
2. The Royal College of Radiologists has approximately 7,000 members and Fellows worldwide representing the disciplines of clinical oncology and clinical radiology. All members and Fellows of the College are registered medical or dental practitioners.
3. The role of the College is to advance the science and practice of radiology and oncology, further public education and promote study and research through setting professional standards of practice.