

Date: 19/03/2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/014674 – Euthanasia/assisted dying

I would like to submit the following Freedom of Information request.

Parliament is likely to have draft legislation presented to it in coming months calling for a change in the law to allow, assisted suicide and or euthanasia – sometimes referred to as “assisted dying”. In Oregon and Washington, two of the US states that have legalised assisted suicide, there have been documented cases of those with terminal illnesses being refused life-saving, or life-extending medication, while offered the drugs to kill themselves. In these cases, the high cost of treatment was given as a reason for the denial of medication.

Please can you provide me with a copy of, or details of the assessment that your organisation has carried out on the impact of changing the law to allow assisted suicide or euthanasia, in particular, I am keen to see how this will impact the following:

- a) A possible reduction, or redeployment of clinical staff away from palliative care?
- b) Any possible financial savings?
- c) Figures on the numbers of people who might opt to end their lives this way?
- d) Any assessment of how this will impact on your organisation's suicide reduction plan?
- e) Any assessment of how this will impact on the mental health of your staff?
- f) Any assessment of additional costs associated with possible litigation against both medical staff and your organisation?

This is an issue that has been discussed on numerous occasions within Parliament with no changes to the law thus far.

No assessment is required until there is a change in the law.