



Dear Resident,

You could be **one of 30 people** selected to take part in a Citizens' Jury "**Exploring Public Views on Assisted Dying**". A Citizens' Jury brings people together to discuss a question of importance to society. This Jury has been commissioned by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics (NCOB) working with the social research agency Hopkins Van Mil (HVM). The NCOB is an independent body that examines and advises on ethical issues. The NCOB does not have a position on assisted dying and will not be taking one as part of this project.

Many different terms are used when discussing assisted dying and people do not always agree on the terminology. NCOB define '**assisted dying**' as: **The involvement of healthcare professionals in providing lethal drugs intended to end a patient's life at their voluntary request, subject to a set of conditions**. These lethal (life ending) drugs could be **prescribed** to a patient by a healthcare professional to take themselves or could be **administered** by a healthcare professional. When we use the term '**assisted dying**', we are referring to it as an umbrella term to cover both of these things. Assisted dying is **not legal** in England.

The Jury will consider three main questions during workshops. These are set out in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on page two of this letter.

Taking part in the Citizens' Jury will involve attending a two hour online webinar, four online workshops (three hours each), and two in-person workshops on a Friday evening and Saturday. These start on 17 April 2024 and finish on 15 June 2024. **If you are selected to take part you need to attend all the sessions**. We value your time and contributions and will give you **£440** to thank you.

You don't need any prior knowledge of the topic to take part in the Citizens' Jury; all we require from you is a willingness to listen to the information presented and share your opinions with us and your fellow participants. We want to hear from a real cross-section of people from across England, so if your household has received this letter then you are the right person to take part!

Everyone aged 18 and over who lives at this address can register their interest by visiting **www.sortition.uk/nuffield** or by calling Freephone **0800 009 6486**. The deadline to register is midnight on **Sunday 17 March 2024**. The participants will then be selected by lottery. More details about the Citizens' Jury **Exploring Public Views on Assisted Dying** are available in the FAQs overleaf.

This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with an important subject and have your voice heard. We hope that you will be interested in joining the Citizens' Jury **Exploring Public Views on Assisted Dying** and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Rebecca Mussell, Associate Director, Research and Policy, Nuffield Council on Bioethics

Henrietta Hopkins, Director, Hopkins Van Mil

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Citizens' Jury Exploring Public Views on Assisted Dying

What is the Citizens' Jury Exploring Public Views on Assisted Dying?

This event will follow an established public deliberation process that is used all over the world. It brings together a group of people selected by lottery, who broadly represent the entire community. The people who attend learn about issues, discuss them with one another, and then make recommendations about what should happen and how and if things should change.

The questions the Citizens' Jury will consider during a two-month process of discussion are:

1. Should the law in England be changed to permit assisted dying?
 - What are the most important reasons in favour of permitting assisted dying?
 - What are the most important reasons against permitting assisted dying?
2. If the law is changed to permit assisted dying in England, what should it include? What should it exclude?
3. If the law is not changed to permit assisted dying in England, are there any recommendations or changes to assisted dying policy that should be made?

What are the dates and times of the sessions?

The first five sessions (the webinar and workshops 1-4) will be held online via Zoom. The last two workshops will be held in person at an accessible London venue.

- Introductory Webinar: Wednesday 17 April, 6-8pm
- Workshop 1: Wednesday 24 April, 6-8:30pm
- Workshop 2: Wednesday 8 May, 6-8:30pm
- Workshop 3: Wednesday 15 May, 6-8:30pm
- Workshop 4: Wednesday 22 May, 6-8:30pm
- Workshop 5: Friday 14 June, 6-9pm
- Workshop 6: Saturday 15 June, 10am-4pm

There will also be two optional tech support sessions at 4-5pm on Monday 15 and Wednesday 17 April. You can choose which to attend to run through the use of Zoom and online workshop tools.

Who is running the event?

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics (NCOB) is an independent body that examines and advises on ethical issues arising from developments in biomedicine and health. NCOB will not be publishing their own recommendations or an organisational position on assisted dying, or the



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by **Sunday 17 March**

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Citizens' Jury Exploring Public Views on Assisted Dying

ethics of assisted dying, as part of this project. The focus will be on supporting an informed public conversation on the topic and publishing the findings from the public engagement work. www.nuffieldbioethics.org

Hopkins Van Mil (HVM) is a specialist social research agency which facilitates engagement and research projects. The team creates safe and trusted spaces for productive and engaging discussions on the important issues that matter to us all. www.hopkinsvanmil.co.uk

The Sortition Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in recruiting and selecting people by lottery to take part in these kinds of events, in a way that is broadly representative of the wider population. www.sortition.uk

What will taking part involve?

If you are selected to take part you will have the opportunity to meet with individuals from all walks of life who live in England. You will discuss the topic together in a safe, respectful, supportive and confidential space. You will hear from a broad range of engaging speakers, and you will discuss the issues involved in small groups, with experienced facilitators to make sure everyone has their voice heard. You do not need to have any prior knowledge – all the information you need on the topic will be provided during the workshops.

Ahead of the first workshop we send you instructions on how to join the session and there will be an optional tech support session.

For the online sessions, you will need a space where you can comfortably fully engage in the conversation.

How will you ensure that the event is accessible?

We can provide internet-enabled digital devices and an internet connection for use during the sessions to those who do not have access to a suitable device or internet connection. We can support you to learn the IT skills needed to take part in the project, including one-to-one phone calls and online introductory sessions. Technical support during sessions is also available.

The in-person meetings will be held at an accessible venue with disabled parking available. Food and accommodation will be provided and transport expenses will be covered. This is in addition to the £440 you receive if selected to take part to compensate you for your time and contributions.

Everyone will have access to a prayer room or quiet space during the day.

There is no dress code. Please wear whatever feels comfortable for you.

The information provided during the event will be as jargon-free as possible. There will be opportunities to ask speakers to explain what



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they mean if what they are saying is not clear. A specialist mental health professional will be available to offer support to participants at any point during the research period.

If you require any form of additional support, for example translation, or support with accessibility issues, childcare, or other caring responsibilities, then every attempt will be made to provide this.

If you are selected please just let us know about your specific requirements when we contact you.

Who can apply?

Anyone aged 18 and over by the close of registrations, who is normally resident in the area and who lives full or part time at an address that has received this invitation can apply, with a few exceptions set out below. Please note that a maximum of one person from any single household will be selected to participate.

The following people cannot apply: Elected representatives from any level of government; paid employees of any political party; council employees working in any politically restricted post; employees of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, Hopkins Van Mil or Sortition Foundation.

How was I selected to receive this invitation?

Your household was one of 7,000 addresses in England that was selected by lottery from the Royal Mail address database.

After I register my interest, what happens next?

Once registration has closed, 30 people will be selected by lottery from those who registered their interest, to take part in the event. The lottery process is done in a particular way to make sure that there are people from all across the community attending.

If you are selected, we will contact you by phone and email from Monday 18 March to let you know.

We will then arrange a call with you to confirm that you can attend, discuss any requirements you may have to make it possible for you to attend, and explain what happens next.

What will happen after the event?

A report will be written by HVM and NCOB that will reflect the findings and recommendations made at the Citizens' Jury to inform a wider national conversation about assisted dying in England.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like to talk to someone about this research before registering, please call the Freephone number below. More information about the event will also be available at www.sortition.uk/nuffield



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