

# Assisted Dying Citizens' Jury Independent Advisory Panel Terms of Reference

## Introduction

In 2018 an e-petition was launched calling for the States Assembly to amend Jersey law and allow for assisted dying. 1,861 people signed that petition. This was followed in 2019 by an on-line public survey, an on-line GP/doctors' survey and a public meeting - all of which clearly indicate that there are people in Jersey who support assisted dying.

In response, the Minister for Health and Community Services made a commitment to establish a Citizens' Jury to consider the issue of assisted dying in Jersey.

A Citizens' Jury is an established and highly regarded participatory process which allows citizens to explore and deliberate on value-laden or controversial issues.

The Assisted Dying Citizens' Jury will take place in an online format in Spring 2021. The jury will consist of a demographically representative group of 18 – 24 Jersey residents. The jury will be asked to consider whether assisted dying should be permitted in Jersey and, if so, in what circumstances.

Jurors will be asked to make recommendations in response to this question that will be collated into a report and be presented to the States Assembly for consideration.

## 1. Role of the Advisory Panel

An Advisory Panel will be established to help maintain the integrity of the Jury process. The Panel will provide advice to the project team<sup>1</sup> to ensure that the Citizens' Jury is:

Balanced, accurate and comprehensive in terms of its content and the evidence presented to Jury members;

Focused on supporting the Jury to consider whether assisted dying should be permitted in Jersey and, if so, in what circumstances

Advisory Panel members will be asked to provide advice on key aspects of the Jury design and content including:

- Who is invited to give evidence and what they are asked to cover
- The key question(s) which Jury members are asked to deliberate
- The written briefings created for Jury members

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<sup>1</sup> [Involve](#), an independent consultancy specialising in public participation in partnership with SPPP (Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance) policy team

- Reviewing designs for the Jury process

## 2. Membership

The Advisory Panel will be made up of 3 - 5 members.

The Minister will seek to recruit members from a variety of backgrounds selected to provide an objective voice and to check and challenge the proposed process.

To further ensure the independence of the group, serving politicians will not be eligible for membership of the Advisory Panel.

The Government of Jersey, in partnership with [Involve](#), will provide the secretariat to support the group.

## 3. Time commitment

The Advisory Panel will meet virtually 3 or 4 times between November 2020 and May 2021.

In addition, Advisory Panel members are likely to be sent documents to comment on between meetings. This includes briefings for Jury members. Each briefing will be drafted to be clear and accessible for Jury members. Advisory Panel members can comment on all, or some, of these documents, as they prefer. We will endeavor to give Advisory Panel members both advanced notice of any documents to be sent between meetings, and reasonable timeframes within which to comment.

## 4. Confidentiality

The Advisory Panel will see and be sent documents relating to the Citizens' Jury on Assisted Dying in draft form, and also in final form before they are made public. By agreeing to be on the Advisory Panel, members will commit to respecting the confidentiality of these documents.