

Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

24 April 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

We are joining together as a coalition of health and care organisations and charities to urge immediate action to improve palliative and end-of-life care provision for everyone who needs it. With the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill set to fall this week, it is vital that momentum around palliative and end-of-life care is not wasted.

The national conversation surrounding assisted dying has brought renewed attention to the urgent need for high-quality, accessible palliative and end-of-life care. As you noted in Parliament, “Regardless of where people stood on the debate about assisted dying, the one thing that united everyone across the House was a belief that palliative care needs to be so much better than it is today, and that is what we will work on together”.

We believe this under-states the case. Nearly one in three people in England die without the care and support they need. This represents around 170,000 people each year, or nearly one every three minutes. Services are also being cut back - with nearly six in ten hospices having made or considering frontline cuts. Without urgent intervention, more people will be left without the care they need.

The Government must use this moment to truly commit to transformational change. In the face of an ageing population and demand projected to increase by around 25% by 2048, failing to improve palliative and end-of-life care would mean neglecting the needs of hundreds of thousands of people and their families.

Against this backdrop, it is vital that the upcoming Modern Service Framework (MSF) for Palliative and End-of-Life Care makes meaningful and substantial change. It must bring robust accountability at a national, regional and local level. And to achieve its intended impact, systems must be resourced and commissioned to deliver its aims.

This is a critical moment to turn shared ambition into action and deliver the improvements in palliative and end-of-life care that patients and families urgently need.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Abrahams
Charity Director
Age UK

Toby Porter
Chief Executive
Hospice UK

Matthew Reed
Chief Executive
Marie Curie

James Sanderson
Chief Executive
Sue Ryder

Nick Carroll
Chief Executive
Together for Short Lives