

# Mainlanders will be barred from assisted dying clinics in Guernsey

◆ Guernsey politicians have said the island will not become a “British Dignitas” as they suggest people from the mainland would not be able to travel there to end their lives.

The island’s parliament, the States of Guernsey, is due to debate proposals to allow adults with less than six months to live to choose assisted dying.

Gavin St Pier, the Chief Minister, said he wished to “clarify” that the “debate is about assisted dying not suicide; and there is no proposal for a Dignitas-style clinic” that would mean people coming to Guernsey from Britain and beyond for assisted dying, as happens at the Dignitas clinic in Zurich, Switzerland.

However, assisting someone to kill themselves is illegal in the UK, and the British Medical Association warned the reform “could have an impact on recruitment and retention of doctors” on the Channel island because General Medical Council rules bar members from participating in assisted dying.

Campaigners also said such a reform “risks putting pressure on vulnerable people to end their lives”. Dr Peter Saunders, the campaign director for the Care Not Killing Alliance, said: “These proposals are deeply flawed and... open to abuse.”

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