

Guernsey votes against assisted dying

Neil Johnston

A plan to legalise assisted suicide in Guernsey has been thrown out.

The proposal was voted down yesterday by 24 votes to 14 in the island's assembly after three days of debate. If it had been approved a group would have developed recommendations to allow terminally ill adults, of sound mind and with six months or less to live, to end their lives at a time of their choosing.

The vote was welcomed by anti-euthanasia but criticised by other charities. Richy Thompson, director of public affairs and policy at Humanists UK, said: "As medical science has become more advanced, so too has our ability to keep people alive for longer than ever before. This development in science is to be welcomed but it also means that many people end up suffering for longer before they die. The proposals that Guernsey has voted on today, therefore, were needed more now than at any time in our history."

Peter Saunders, campaign director of Care Not Killing, said: "Parliamentarians across the UK have rightly rejected attempts to introduce assisted suicide and euthanasia ten times since 2003 out of concern for public safety."