

## EXIT STRATEGY

With reference to 83-year-old Elizabeth Couloris, who travelled to Switzerland last month to end her life ("I chose suicide rather than go to care home", News, last week), I am reminded of this statement by the European Court of Human Rights (April 29, 2002): "In an era of growing medical sophistication, combined with longer life expectancies, many people are concerned that they should not be forced to linger on in old age or in states of advanced physical or mental decrepitude which conflict with strongly held ideas of self and personal identity." This unambiguity gives the Society for Old Age Rational Suicide (mentioned in the report last week) a reassuring reason for its existence. It is fortunate that the Swiss are willing to help both their own elderly nationals and foreigners. In reality today we also provide this possibility in the UK — it just happens to be offshore.

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Summary Times 14 June 2015