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Assisted suicide lobby

SIR – Sir Graeme Catto (Letters, June 8) is a former chairman of the General Medical Council.

He is also chairman of the lobby group Dignity in Dying (formerly the Voluntary Euthanasia Society). The poll on assisted suicide to which he refers – which, he said, found that “just 7 per cent of people agree with the BMA’s current stance” – was sponsored by this group and couched in terms which were one-sided.

It is not true that doctors are “dictating whether or not the law changes”. The British Medical Association’s opposition to legalising assisted suicide may be inconvenient for the lobbyists, but Parliament is at liberty to disregard it if it so wishes. There is nothing unreasonable about the BMA’s policy. It is a policy which most doctors strongly support.

Baroness Hollins

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