

# Assisted dying

Sir, Dr David Nicholls's letter (Apr 10) illustrates the problem with the argument for assisted dying perfectly. His argument is based on an anecdote around a single patient and he concludes with the proviso "the law must protect [from] abuses".

But how can the law protect patients from an incorrect diagnosis or prognosis? How can it protect a patient who may be going through reversible depression and wishes to end his or her life? How can it offer protection to the patient who may feel obliged to request assisted dying to avoid burdening relatives, friends or society?

In truth it cannot, and we are fortunate that our members of parliament understand this.

PROFESSOR PETER DO DAVIES

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