

Overmighty roles

Sir, There has been no argument that Charlie Gard's parents are unfit to act in his interest (News, July 10). Doctors and lawyers have no expertise which allows them to make fundamental value judgments about Charlie's care in any way superior to his parents'.

The incoherent and authoritarian spectacle caused by the inappropriate seizure of the power to make these judgments is but more evidence of just how overmighty the medical and legal professions are in the UK.

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Sir, Is it not strange that, when a child has an incurable complaint and irreversible brain damage that the doctors wish to switch off his life-support machine and let him have a peaceful death? Yet, if this were an

adult suffering great pain and dying in incomprehensible suffering, for example with motor neurone disease where one suffocates to death, it is illegal to allow him to have an assisted suicide.

How can one be right and the other wrong?

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