

Mother and son will not be prosecuted for Dignitas trip

A daughter has escaped being prosecuted for taking her father, a war hero, to the Dignitas assisted suicide clinic to fulfil his final wishes.

Sandra Holmes, 66, a former nurse, took John Lenton, 93, from his care home to the clinic in Switzerland. She said that he had asked her to take him about six months before finally making the trip in October.

But after spending £15,000 to carry out his final wishes, Ms Holmes then had an agonising wait to find out whether she would be prosecuted.

The Crown Prosecution Service has now concluded that it is not in the public interest to pursue a case against Ms Holmes and her son Scott, 40, who both took Mr Lenton to end his life.

Ms Holmes, of Llanrwst in north Wales, said: "The whole family is greatly relieved that we are finally able to draw a line under this now, and although we never expected to be prosecuted, it's nice to know for definite that we won't be.

"The police have been very supportive of us and we've also had massive support on social media and in the community ever since sharing Dad's story. In fact, perfect strangers have

even come up to me in the street saying they admire what we did, I've not had one negative reaction. Everyone is supportive of the right to die."

She added: "One thing that I wanted to come out of Dad's death was to get people talking about this and open the topic up for discussion.

"The more we bring this out into the open, the more chance we have of hopefully getting the law changed." Ms Holmes said she was willing to go to prison and knew it might come to that.

Her father served with the South Wales Borderers before he volunteered to join The Parachute Regiment. While serving as a colour sergeant he fought in Italy, Algeria, Tunisia, France, Greece, Palestine and Egypt.

His health worsened after the death of Jeanne, his wife, in 2011 and he required a permanent catheter following a hernia operation that year. Mr Lenton was also deaf and last year he lost control of his bowels.

He then had Parkinson's disease diagnosed and suffered several falls. He later had dry macular degeneration diagnosed, which was causing him to go blind.

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