

Dear Committee Secretary,

With respect to the subject inquiry, I wish to make the following comments:

1. Many suicides are not irrational. I have been involved with schizophrenia sufferers for well over 30 years and have noted a number of cases when it appeared that the suicide took place during a period of sanity. These suicides did occur when schizophrenia was not as well managed as at present, and there seemed to be no hope for the relief of suffering, or of cure.

2. It is time to recognise that some suicides are rational, particularly for the sufferers of terminal illness, and the laws at present make a crime of offering any sort of support to people wishing to end their life; these laws should be amended.

3. Many people feel that the decision to end one's own life should be their's alone, and that governments and religions should not interfere in their end of life decisions.

Yours sincerely,

John L C Edge.