End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Terence Kay

I am opposed to the introduction of the End of Life Assistance Bill for the following reasons:

It is a draconian measure which I consider would be beset with problems similar to those which were associated with the death penalty when it existed in the criminal courts. It would be too easy to make mistakes: an example would be the difficulty of dealing with individuals who because of their state or medication are subject to mood swings.

Persons may be subjected to real or imagined pressure to terminate their lives.

They may feel that they are under obligation to do so, in order not to be a burden on their carers.

The proposed law could also be exploited by the unscrupulous, for a variety of underhand reasons.

The proposed legislation would be contrary to the commitment of doctors and nurses to maintain life and they could be asked to take on the additional role of judge and arbiter.

It represents a misuse of our energies and resources, which should be directed rather to improving palliative care; seeking to enhance the dignity and worth of patients and improving the quality of life of such days as remain to them.

Terence Kay
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