The ELA Bill Committee,
The Scottish Parliament.

Dear Members of Committee,

We write to say that we strongly oppose the proposed ELA Assistance Bill (Scotland) which would legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia in Scotland.

There is no doubt at all that abuses would occur, and vulnerable and elderly people would be especially at risk if they were perceived as a burden on family or state.

There are already excellent services for the terminally ill. My brother, ill with a brain tumour, spent the two days prior to his death in the local hospice, and the kindness and commitment of the staff were amazing, and they did not allow him to suffer.

The professional medical bodies and the BMA do not support assisted suicide.

The Bill puts a dreadful and unfair
responsibility on doctors, for whom it contains no conscience clause. That, putting it at its lowest, is an extremely selfish thing. To end someone's physical distress at the expense of somebody else's mental distress is just not acceptable.

Yours truly,

Hugh Ferrier