The Committee Clerk
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH 99 1 SP

Dear Sir

I am now retired, but in my early days as a doctor, and more especially throughout my life simply as a friend, when visiting the terminally ill, I noticed an interesting fact. Although perhaps confused in mind, and distressed in body, there was an inner spirit which did not want to die.

There were different reasons for this. Fear, or just an unreadiness to go—something still to be done, affairs to be put in order etc.

This unreadiness was not usually immediately apparent, but only emerged after patiently listening to, or being with the person for a period of time.

There has also been documented evidence of a person making an unprecedented recovery and going on to live an effective life.

I feel therefore that assisted suicide cannot be justified, and am against it.

Yours faithfully

Jessie Wallace