

*“Do individuals with
dementia have a moral duty
to die”?*

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- *“If you’re demented, you’re wasting people’s lives – your family’s lives – and you’re wasting the resources of the National Health Service. I’m absolutely, fully in agreement with the argument that if pain is insufferable, then someone should be given help to die, but I feel there’s a wider argument that if somebody absolutely, desperately wants to die because they’re a burden to their family, or the state, then I think they too should be allowed to die.*
- *If you’ve an advanced directive, appointing someone else to act on your behalf, if you become incapacitated, then I think there is a hope that your advocate may say that you would not wish to live in this condition so please try to help her die. I think that’s the way the future will go, putting it rather brutally, you’d be licensing people to put others down. Actually I think why not, because the real person has gone already and all that’s left is just the body of the person, and nobody wants to be remembered in this condition”.*