

MPs - Summer 2009

Table 339

M.8 If a doctor in England or Wales helps a terminally ill, but mentally competent, adult patient to die when directly requested to do so, by the patient, should that doctor be prosecuted or not?

Base : All MPs asked

	Total (z)	Party					Status			Region							Gender		Unwtd total
		Labour (a)	Cons- erv- ative (b)	Lib- eral Dem- ocrat (c)	Other oppos- ition (d)	All oppos- ition (e)	Min- ister (Lab or Cons) (f)	Labour Min- ister (g)	Cons- erv- ative Shadow Min- ister (h)	North (i)	Mid- lands (j)	South (k)	Eng- land (l)	Eng- land/ Wales (m)	Wales (n)	Scot- land (o)	Male (p)	Female (q)	
Unweighted Total	112	66	29	13	4	46	28	14	14	33	14	39	86	102	16	10	90	22	112
Weighted Total	112	63*	32**	12**	4**	48*	33**	17**	16**	32*	13**	41*	87*	102	16**	9**	91*	20**	112
The doctor should be prosecuted	45 40%	22 35%	17 52%	4 31%	2 50%	22 46%	20 61%	10 57%	10 64%	13 41%	2 15%	19 47%	35 40%	40 39%	5 34%	5 51%	40 44%	4 22%	43 38%
The doctor should not be prosecuted	59 53%	38 59%	11 34%	8 69%	2 50%	21 44%	12 36%	7 43%	5 29%	17 53%	11 79%	18 43%	45 52%	54 53%	9 59%	5 49%	43 47%	16 78%	61 54%
Don't know	8 7%	4 6%	4 14%	- -	- -	4 9%	1 3%	- -	1 7%	2 6%	1 7%	4 10%	7 8%	8 8%	1 7%	- -	8 9%	- -	8 7%

Fieldwork Dates : 8 June - 31 July 2009

Respondent Type : MPs

Source : Ipsos MORI (JN: 35724)

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - z/a/b/c/d/e - z/t/g/h - z/i/j/k/l/m/n/o - z/p/q

Overlap formulae used. * small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing

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Table 340

M.9 Why do you say that?

Base : All MPs asked who said the doctor should be prosecuted

	Total (z)	Party					Status			Region							Gender		Unwtd total
		Labour (a)	Cons- ervative (b)	Lib- eral Dem- ocrat (c)	Other oppos- ition (d)	All oppos- ition (e)	Min- ister (Lab or Cons) (f)	Labour Min- ister (g)	Cons- ervative Shadow Min- ister (h)	North (i)	Mid- lands (j)	South (k)	Eng- land (l)	Eng- land/ Wales (m)	Wales (n)	Scot- land (o)	Male (p)	Female (q)	
Unweighted Total	43	22	15	4	2	21	17	8	9	13	2	18	33	38	5	5	38	5	43
Weighted Total	45*	22**	17**	4**	2**	22**	20**	10**	10**	13**	2**	19**	35*	40*	5**	5**	40*	4**	43*
It is the law/it is illegal to help someone die	24 54%	13 58%	10 60%	1 25%	- -	11 49%	11 53%	5 50%	6 56%	7 54%	1 55%	11 56%	19 55%	22 56%	3 61%	2 37%	20 51%	4 80%	23 53%
Doctors take the hypocratic oath and are there to help people get better not help them die/shouldn't be allowed to play God	9 21%	6 25%	1 7%	3 75%	- -	4 18%	4 19%	4 38%	- -	6 44%	- -	1 6%	7 20%	8 21%	1 23%	1 26%	9 21%	1 20%	9 21%
Don't believe in Euthenasia/it is against my beliefs/religious beliefs	8 18%	3 15%	4 27%	- -	- -	4 20%	5 24%	2 25%	2 22%	2 18%	- -	3 17%	6 17%	8 20%	2 39%	- -	8 19%	- -	7 16%
Need to seriously consider the reasons/ pressure from family/ financial reasons etc	4 9%	2 8%	2 13%	- -	- -	2 10%	2 11%	- -	2 22%	- -	- -	4 21%	4 12%	4 10%	- -	- -	3 8%	1 20%	4 9%
Do not believe Euthanasia should be legalised because it sends out the wrong message/is open to interpretation	3 7%	1 6%	1 7%	1 25%	- -	2 9%	2 12%	1 13%	1 11%	1 7%	- -	2 12%	3 10%	3 8%	- -	- -	3 8%	- -	3 7%
Depends on the circumstances/doctor involved	3 6%	2 8%	1 7%	- -	- -	1 5%	1 6%	- -	1 11%	1 7%	- -	2 10%	3 8%	3 7%	- -	- -	1 3%	2 40%	3 7%
Yes/they should be prosecuted	1 2%	- -	- -	1 25%	- -	1 4%	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 5%	1 3%	1 2%	- -	- -	1 2%	- -	1 2%
Not if the patient is competent enough to make a decision	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
I think if a doctor did this it would be special circumstances and he would have thought long and hard about it therefore he shouldn't be prosecuted	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
I believe it happens anyway/is last humanitarian act a doctor can give his patient	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Patient has a right to choose	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -

Fieldwork Dates : 8 June - 31 July 2009

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Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - z/a/b/c/d/e - z/t/g/h - z/i/j/k/l/m/n/o - z/p/q

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Base : All MPs asked who said the doctor should be prosecuted

	Total (z)	Party					Status			Region							Gender		Unwtd total
		Labour (a)	Cons- erv- ative (b)	Lib- eral Dem- ocrat (c)	Other oppos- ition (d)	All oppos- ition (e)	Min- ister (Lab or Cons) (f)	Labour Min- ister (g)	Cons- erv- ative Shadow Min- ister (h)	North (i)	Mid- lands (j)	South (k)	Eng- land (l)	Eng- land/ Wales (m)	Wales (n)	Scot- land (o)	Male (p)	Female (q)	
Weighted Total	45*	22**	17**	4**	2**	22**	20**	10**	10**	13**	2**	19**	35*	40*	5**	5**	40*	4**	43*
Would be a waste of money/jury wouldn't convict them	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't think you should prosecute/pointless	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As long as there are appropriate safeguards in place/that it is a matter of someone with a terminal illness and not someone just having a bad day	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I believe in euthanasia/assisted death/should change the law	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	3 7%	2 10%	-	-	1 50%	1 4%	1 6%	1 13%	-	-	-	1 6%	1 4%	2 5%	1 16%	1 18%	3 7%	-	3 7%
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
None/No answer	2 4%	1 4%	-	-	1 50%	1 4%	-	-	-	-	1 45%	-	1 3%	1 2%	-	1 18%	2 4%	-	2 5%

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Table 341

M.9 Why do you say that?

Base : All MPs asked who said the doctor should not be prosecuted

	Total (z)	Party					Status			Region							Gender		Unwtd total
		Labour (a)	Cons- ervative (b)	Lib- eral Dem- ocrat (c)	Other oppos- ition (d)	All oppos- ition (e)	Min- ister (Lab or Cons) (f)	Labour Min- ister (g)	Cons- erv- ative Shadow Min- ister (h)	North (i)	Mid- lands (j)	South (k)	Eng- land (l)	Eng- land/ Wales (m)	Wales (n)	Scot- land (o)	Male (p)	Female (q)	
Unweighted Total	61	40	10	9	2	21	10	6	4	18	11	17	46	56	10	5	44	17	61
Weighted Total	59*	38*	11**	8**	2**	21**	12**	7**	5**	17**	11**	18**	45*	54*	9**	5**	43*	16**	61*
Patient has a right to choose	20 34%	17 45% z	-	3 33%	-	3 13%	4 31%	4 50%	-	7 39%	5 46%	2 10%	13 29%	19 35%	6 62%	1 19%	14 33%	5 34%	21 34%
I think if a doctor did this it would be special circumstances and he would have thought long and hard about it therefore he shouldn't be prosecuted	13 22% a	7 18%	2 20%	3 33%	1 50%	6 28%	4 30%	2 33%	1 25%	2 13%	1 8%	4 23%	7 16%	11 20%	4 42%	2 42%	8 19%	4 28%	13 21%
Not if the patient is competent enough to make a decision	11 19%	7 19%	2 20%	2 22%	-	4 19%	1 9%	-	1 25%	5 31%	2 19%	2 12%	9 21%	10 19%	1 10%	1 21%	8 18%	4 23%	12 20%
I believe it happens anyway/is last humanitarian act a doctor can give his patient	7 13% a	-	6 50%	2 22%	-	7 35%	1 9%	-	1 25%	1 7%	-	5 30%	6 14%	6 12%	-	1 21%	7 17%	-	7 11%
I believe in euthanasia/ assisted death/should change the law	7 12%	6 16%	1 10%	-	-	1 5%	-	-	-	2 10%	4 33%	2 11%	7 16%	7 13%	-	-	5 11%	3 17%	8 13%
Don't think you should prosecute/pointless	7 12%	5 14%	1 10%	-	1 50%	2 9%	-	-	-	2 10%	1 8%	1 6%	4 8%	6 10%	2 19%	2 39%	6 13%	2 11%	8 13%
As long as there are appropriate safeguards in place/that it is a matter of someone with a terminal illness and not someone just having a bad day	7 12%	3 8%	-	4 44%	-	4 18%	1 10%	1 17%	-	2 13%	1 8%	3 16%	6 13%	7 12%	1 10%	-	3 7%	4 23%	7 11%
Depends on the circumstances/doctor involved	7 11%	4 9%	2 20%	1 11%	-	3 15%	1 9%	-	1 25%	2 10%	-	3 18%	5 11%	6 11%	1 10%	1 19%	5 11%	2 13%	7 11%
Do not believe Euthanasia should be legalised because it sends out the wrong message/is open to interpretation	5 9%	3 9%	1 10%	-	1 50%	2 9%	4 30%	2 33%	1 25%	-	-	2 13%	2 5%	5 8%	2 23%	1 19%	4 10%	1 8%	5 8%
Need to seriously consider the reasons/ pressure from family/ financial reasons etc	5 9%	4 10%	1 10%	-	-	1 5%	2 20%	1 17%	1 25%	2 13%	-	1 6%	3 7%	5 9%	2 19%	-	4 10%	1 6%	5 8%
Yes/they should be prosecuted	2 4%	-	2 20%	-	-	2 10%	1 9%	-	1 25%	1 7%	1 11%	-	2 5%	2 4%	-	-	2 5%	-	2 3%

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Would be a waste of money/jury wouldn't convict them	2 4%	2 6%	-	-	-	-	1 10%	1 17%	-	1 5%	-	1 7%	2 5%	2 4%	-	-	2 5%	-	2 3%
Don't believe in Euthenasia/it is against my beliefs/religious beliefs	1 1%	1 2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 5%	1 2%	1 2%	-	-	1 2%	-	1 2%
Doctors take the hypocratic oath and are there to help people get better not help them die/shouldn't be allowed to play God	1 1%	-	-	-	1 50%	1 4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 2%	1 9%	-	1 2%	-	1 2%
It is the law/it is illegal to help someone die	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	2 3%	2 5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 5%	-	-	1 2%	1 2%	-	1 19%	2 4%	-	2 3%
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
None/No answer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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