

Briefing: Number of UK citizens going to Switzerland to seek an assisted death

About the Assisted Dying Coalition

The Assisted Dying Coalition is the UK and Crown dependencies coalition of organisations working in favour of legal recognition of the right to die, for individuals who have a clear and settled wish to end their life and who are terminally ill or facing incurable suffering.

We aim to ensure

1. Any individual who has a clear and settled wish to end their life, and is either terminally ill or incurably suffering, can access an assisted death.
2. The UK repeals Section 2(1) of the 1961 Suicide Act and creates a regulated system to facilitate the possibility of medically assisted dying, for all the mentally competent individuals fitting the description above.

Estimated statistics

We calculate that the total number of UK citizens who ended their life in Switzerland from 2015-18 was **233 - more than one a week**. The total number of UK citizens who are members of an assisted dying organisation in Switzerland **1,464**.

Clinic	Number of deaths	Number of members
Dignitas	142	1,341
Lifecircle	63	113
EX International	<i>Estimated 28</i>	<i>Estimated 10</i>

The above figures for EX International are based on the following assumptions:

The three organisations in Switzerland, which offer medically assisted deaths to non-Swiss nationals, vary in size. Dignitas is the largest organisation and EX International is the smallest. There is a statistical difference between Dignitas and Lifecircle of 2.25, for the number of UK Citizens who have ended their lives abroad since 2015. Therefore, assuming that Lifecircle and EX International would differ by a similar factor, it is estimated that EX International have assisted 28 UK nationals since 2015. There is also a statistical difference of 11.75 between Dignitas and Lifecircle, for how many UK citizens are members of an assisted dying organisation. Assuming that Lifecircle and EX International would differ by a similar factor, it is estimated that EX International have 10 members that are UK nationals.

For more details, information and evidence, contact the Assisted Dying Coalition:

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