

Dear Jeremy Hunt

Loneliness in the ailing elderly: social and healthcare responses

I heard of your comments recently. I am grateful that you are, again, broadening the language and thought from the systemic and managerial to include the humanistic and ethical.

I am a small-practice GP with decades of experience working long term with the kinds of problems you refer to: I would like to share some of my understandings.

I am sure you have far too much to read, but I am attaching two writings that are almost certainly different from your usual fare: they are personal narratives, written in a spirit of scientific enquiry, by a veteran frontline NHS doctor. The first, *The Psychoecology of Gladys Parlett* was written in 1988 and more prophetic than I intended. The second, *Five Executive Follies*, was written much more recently, for your predecessor, Andrew Lansley: it demonstrates and explains what has happened in the last two decades, since *Gladys Parlett*.

Of course, I shall be interested in any thoughtful response.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

David Zigmond

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