

From: [Dignitas](#)
To: [Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices](#)
Subject: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices - Letter ref. 20180420-LTR-QON, Question arising from public hearing
Date: Monday, 30 April 2018 9:12:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Mrs. Sanderson

Dear members of the Joint Select Committee

Thank you for your letter of 20 April 2018.

Herewith we provide references to publically available statistics. Not all of this is available in English, unfortunately, because English is not an “official language” in Switzerland, which is German, French, Italian and Rhaeto-Romanic. However, where necessary, we shall translate and explain best as we can.

1)

Suicide (excluding assisted/accompanied suicide), Table by the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/health/state-health/mortality-causes-death/specific.assetdetail.3742862.html>

This table shows the 30 most significant causes of death in Switzerland, rates as per 100'000 inhabitants. The last row shows “Suizid” = “suicide”, separate for men and women. The five columns are for the years 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015.

As one can see, for both men and women the rate has decreased except for men between 2010 and 2015.

2)

Suicide and Suicide methods (again, excluding assisted/accompanied suicide), Table by the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/health/state-health/mortality-causes-death/specific.assetdetail.3742875.html>

This table shows the actual number of suicides for the years 1995 to 2015. At the top row the total number, thereafter this separate for men and women, thereafter the numbers of suicide methods a) poisoning, b) hanging, c) use of guns and d) other methods. Thereafter, the total number of all (causes of) death (“Alle Todesursachen”). Thereafter follow the mentioned suicide methods a) to d) in per cent %

3)

Assisted/accompanied suicide (excluding “DIY-suicides”) Table by the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/health/state-health/mortality-causes-death/specific.assetdetail.3742880.html>

This table shows the number of assisted suicide cases from the year 2003 up to 2015. The first row shows the total, thereafter a row for men under the age of 65 and over 65, thereafter the same for women.

Note: this table includes assisted suicide cases of Swiss residents only.

Note 2: in the hearing, we mentioned that the number of assisted suicide cases levelled off

and/or decreased after 2015. The Federal Statistical Office does not provide more recent data than 2015. However, we know from numbers communicated by the largest Swiss right-to-die member society, Exit (Deutsche Schweiz) www.exit.ch, founded in 1982, today with 105'000 members, but (unlike us, DIGNITAS - To live with dignity - To die with dignity) only providing services to Swiss nationals, that in 2015, they assisted 782 individuals whilst in 2016 this number was down to 722. In the same time, their number of members increased, from 95621 in 2015 to 104278 in 2016. See: <https://www.exit.ch/news/jahresberichte/jahresbericht-2016> (annual report year 2016). Furthermore, in 2017, they assisted 734 individuals.

4)

Publication / brochure in English “Assisted suicide and suicide in Switzerland” by the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland, as to the Cause of death statistics of the year 2014

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/health/state-health/mortality-causes-death/specific.assetdetail.3902308.html>

This publication includes valuable details about suicides and assisted/accompanied suicide, as to gender, age, and underlying diseases.

If any questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us. And, of course, you may contact the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland directly.

Yours sincerely

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To live with dignity

To die with dignity

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