

PE1651/BB

Elaine Stewart submission of 5 January 2018

I was born in Glasgow. I had no experience with psychiatry till the birth of my second child.

I was admitted to hospital in a state of crisis. My family doctor had not understood the development of my post partum depression. (she was not up on this illness. I have often wished she had known of the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale) She prescribed an ssri which, with any exploration, would have been counter indicated for me. The immediate outcome was a suicide attempt when I jumped at a subway train after ten or twelve days. Twenty three years later I still need a wheelchair, an accessible home, so very many other things as well. I consider myself lucky because I got to be a stay at home mum. I did live. Not everyone survives.

I understand from various research resources that suicide is an unsurprising outcome from ssri's. I believe that ssri's need to be eliminated. I do not like psychiatric drugs, however I do use them. They slow me down, cloud my brain and interfere with my life. But, I am alive.