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**MPs should be basing their voting decisions on more than anecdotal evidence, however heart-rending that may be**

Sir, Natascha Engel ([Opinion, Aug 8](#)) tells us that she voted for the smoking ban in public places because she was “convinced” that smoking was bad for her constituents, but she would now vote against a ban. The reason? A heart-rending conversation with an elderly man who no longer uses a miners’ welfare club because of the ban.

If this is the way MPs reach decisions on important matters of public health (or anything else), we really are in trouble.

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