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## Activity

# Ethics case studies

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Apply what you have learnt about ethical theories to the following case studies.

## Whistleblowers

In 2008, a consultant urologist at Queen Elizabeth hospital in Woolwich was excluded and branded a troublemaker after writing to management and warning them about the impacts of cost cutting.

His lawyers claimed that senior staff working for the NHS risk victimisation for speaking out about health and safety failings. The case raises questions about the lack of protection for NHS 'whistleblowers'. (Adapted from the *Independent*)

**Choose two of the ethical theories you have studied and consider how they might be applied to this issue.**

## Cracking down on tax evaders

Watch the following BBC video about a controversial plan by the German government to target tax evaders:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern\\_ireland/8494858.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8494858.stm)

Following the news, leading members of German chancellor Angela Merkel's own party described the plan to buy the data as 'immoral'.

**Explain how different ethical theories might be applied to this issue and the conclusions that might be reached.**

## The drugs won't work?

Read the following article by David Prosser:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/comment/david-prosser-the-drugs-dont-work-1887591.html>

**What might ethics say in response to his final statement?**

## Lawyers at boiling point

Read the following BBC article on the recent walkout by criminal case lawyers:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25597617>

**What ethical theories might you apply to this article?**