

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21<sup>st</sup> August 2017

*Jean Constance,*

**RE: DROP THE ABORTION CASE AGAINST NORTHERN IRELAND MOTHER.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of abortion law in Northern Ireland.

There have been a number of cases recently that have highlighted how the abortion law in Northern Ireland is different to the rest of the UK.

At present, women from Northern Ireland coming to England for an abortion are asked for a payment, when other women from the UK don't have to pay. The Government is proposing that this will no longer happen. None of this changes the fundamental position that abortion in Northern Ireland itself is a devolved issue. It is therefore up to the people of Northern Ireland, and their elected representatives in Stormont, to address the need for change.

I understand, however, that in the particular case that you mention, a judge in Belfast has granted permission for a judicial review to be heard over the prosecution of the mother, as he believed that the case raised issues of considerable public importance and public debate. This will now be held in the autumn.

I will continue to follow this issue closely.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*with best wishes,*

*Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**