

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION.**

Thank you for contacting me recently about sex-selective abortion; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

Abortion is a highly sensitive issue, regardless of where your view lies and one where it is important that the matter is considered with due care and respect. It is for this reason that, as with other matters of conscience, the Government adopts a neutral stance on abortion, allowing Conservative MPs to vote freely according to their moral, ethical, or religious beliefs. This is a convention which I support wholeheartedly.

The approach to abortion in Great Britain is set out in the *Abortion Act 1967*, which states that two doctors must certify that, in their opinion, a request for an abortion meets at least one and the same ground laid out in the Act. These grounds include "*risk to the life of the pregnant woman*", and "*substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped*".

I am encouraged that guidance for doctors on how to comply with the Act has been issued, which stipulates that registered medical practitioners should be able to show how they have considered the particular facts and circumstances of a case when forming their opinion. Full details can be found online at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-doctors-on-compliance-with-the-abortion-act](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-doctors-on-compliance-with-the-abortion-act).

Abortion on the grounds of sex alone is illegal and I am glad that the Government guidance for doctors on how to comply with the Act makes this clear. With regard to the Non-Invasive Prenatal Test, this test is never meant to be used to determine the sex of a child, and I share your concerns that this test could be misused to inform sex selective abortion. That is why I am glad that the Government will continue to review the evidence regarding the test.

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**