As a citizen of Northern Ireland, a father of four, and a Health Service employee I wish to submit the following points for your consideration in relation to the above inquiry:

(1) As recently as 2016, as part of the democratic process, Northern Ireland’s elected representatives returned a clear majority, in a series of votes, to uphold the sanctity of life throughout pregnancy, thus protecting the rights of the unborn child. In spite of this and in the face of a subsequent ruling, by the Court of Appeal in Belfast, that Northern Ireland has the right to determine its own abortion legislation, Westminster appears determined to circumvent both the democratic process and the rule of law in order to alter Northern Ireland’s Abortion legislation. Northern Ireland’s laws, as determined by the people of Northern Ireland, through their elected representatives, must be respected.

(2) Winston Churchill said that you measure the degree of civilisation of a society by how it treats its weakest members; abortion takes away the human rights of the unborn child, arguably one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. That Westminster is seeking to amend Northern Ireland’s pro-life legislation is an indictment on the nations moral and ethical standing not to mention an attack on the right to life, which places the onus on the Government to “safeguard life”.

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