I write concerning the abortion law in Northern Ireland on behalf of the Church I lead, which consists of approx 600 family units.

The current abortion laws in Northern Ireland, I believe, reflect the views of the majority of the population. Further, in 2016 the clear majority of our MLAs supported the current laws through a series of votes.

Although we do not currently have a functioning Assembly, I have no reason to think that their positions will have changed. Despite the lack of an Assembly, I do not think it right that Parliament should bypass our elected representatives’ views on such an important issue.

I believe that a potential for life is initiated at the point of conception and that as that potential develops within the mother's womb we all must respect that potential and do that we can to protect it. Intervention to bring that potential to an end is a very serious matter and must only be contemplated following much soul searching during which all alternatives are considered, and that the parents are supported fully during this exploration.

In my opinion there are very few grounds whereby abortion should be considered, and certainly not for social reasons, as is often the case in Great Britain.

In the light of the above I strongly resist and attempt to alter the current laws through Parliament.

December 2018