This submission is being made on behalf of Ardbarron Trust Ltd, a Christian Charitable Trust and majority shareholder in Henderson Group (SPAR wholesale and retail grocery business). The Trust receives an annual dividend from the trading business and those funds are distributed to beneficiaries in Ireland, UK and worldwide by the Trustees in accordance with the Trust’s objectives.

The Henderson Group employs 3000 people directly in Northern Ireland and we consider ourselves to be significant stakeholders in the Northern Ireland economy and civic society in this Province.

We do appreciate that there can be difficult circumstances resulting in unwanted pregnancy but the abortion statistics in GB would suggest that the main driver is “social choice”, abortion on demand.

The law in NI, as it currently stands is pro-life and that is our deeply held conviction to protect unborn children. Life is God’s gift to us and we are thankful that the current legal framework in NI has protected many, estimated at 100,000 people alive today as a consequence.

Devolution has protected the unborn as locally elected representatives made clear in February 2016.

The number of abortions carried out in GB is staggering and often for social reasons only. Some would argue that having an abortion is a lifestyle choice, the women’s choice but the unborn child has no choice! Everyone has the right to life, especially those with no voice.

The wishes of the people of Northern Ireland must be respected and in this instance, we are glad that Northern Ireland is “out of step” with the rest of the UK and the wider world.

December 2018