1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my brief response to the questions your committee has posed. I do so as an individual - a citizen and resident of Northern Ireland.

2. First of all I respectfully ask that the position of Northern Ireland law be respected and not usurped by Westminster. The citizens of Northern Ireland have elected their representatives through whom changes can be instigated. However, to be clear the majority of these representatives voted in 2016 to maintain the current Abortion arrangements. As you will be aware, the NI Court of Appeal made a clear determination in 2017 that NI has the right to set its own laws in this matter.

3. Fundamentally, Abortion deprives the weakest and voiceless in society of the right to life. It destroys the human rights of the unborn child in favour of the social conveniences and selfishness of adults. As result of the current NI laws on Abortion there are an estimated 100,000 people alive today. Over the same period in the rest of the UK an estimated 9million individuals have been destroyed through Abortion. Very many of these individuals were destroyed for being nothing more than an inconvenience.

4. From my observation and investigation of media reports and from ‘interest groups’, there are frequent character misrepresentations of those taking a pro-life stand who, in the main, are simply concerned citizens who wish to ensure those needing pregnancy support have full and impartial information on which to make their decisions. The Abortion industry is substantially funded – state and private - and has vested interests to suppress free, open and full presentation of women’s choices. Even the language used is manipulated and medicalised. Other Westminster committees have heard testimony of mothers who were actually (or felt) pressured into abortions, unaware of their options. Sir Edward Leigh MP related of a mother pressured and escorted into a Marie Stopes facility, only last-moment receiving information on the way in from a peaceful pro-life representative. Only then did she discover there was another way, encouraging her to make an escape from the situation and go on to bring up the child successfully. Hers is not a unique account.

December 2018