Written submission from Mr Thomas Somerville (ANI0319)

- Me and my interest in these laws
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Allowing the devolved government to handle devolved matters

1. I am 28 and was born, raised and continue to live in Northern Ireland. I do not believe there is any need to reform abortion laws in Northern Ireland. I want to submit this in the interest of saving lives as part of my Christian and civil duty. I was protected by these laws and I want to see that protection continue.

2. Abortion goes against the fundamental right to life of all mankind. We have a particular responsibility to the vulnerable, those who cannot speak up for themselves and who fully rely on others to look after them. Unborn children in the womb are the among the most vulnerable in our society and as a society we must protect them, to this end N.I. has humane abortion laws that prioritise the lives of both mother and child.

3. It should also not go ignored that when abortion laws were last voted on in Stormont (2016) the majority support was for abortion laws to remain unchanged. There was support for keeping the laws as they are from both sides of the community and from the majority of political parties in N.I. there is little evidence that this opinion has changed and as such abortion laws should be left for the devolved government to discuss in due course and not brought in from Westminster.

December 2018