In February 2016 the democratic will of the people of Northern Ireland was made clear with regard to abortion. This commitment should be respected and not overruled by Westminster.

Notes for consideration:-

Good lawmaking:-
It is a criminal offence to harm or kill an infant. That same child, forming in their mother's womb, is a person with a fundamental right to life. Good law will uphold that right.

Re changing opinion:-
Lawmakers should, by conduct of their office, uphold the sanctity of human life and not appear to be led by public pressure. Public opinion does not always clamour for what is good and right. In 2016 98% of abortions in Great Britain were carried out for social reasons. A woman in a crisis pregnancy needs to know that the solution to her predicament does not have to involve the taking of a life. Compassion, care, support to cope, indeed all necessary help is freely available and willingly provided through 'Pro-Life' agencies.

Implications of legislation:-
Since the 1967 Abortion Act became law something in the order of nine million abortions have taken place. This is far more than was contemplated when the legislation was being introduced. Concessions made in law to accommodate some particular circumstance can too often set unintended precedents. The committee will no doubt be aware of the great responsibility that is theirs should they recommend any changes that will affect the law as it stands in Northern Ireland.

December 2018