Introduction
The Christian Institute is a non-denominational charity established for the promotion of the Christian faith in the UK and elsewhere. We have approximately ten thousand supporters in Northern Ireland, including over 500 churches and church ministers from across the Christian denominations.

We seek to promote the Christian way of life and Christian teaching on moral and ethical issues, including marriage and family life, and to defend the religious liberty of Christians in the UK. We do this through our publications, lectures, participation in Church services, website, comment in the media, and campaigns. We frequently provide advice and assistance to Christians who have been discriminated against because of their faith. Many of our supporters are involved in the running of churches and Christian organisations, making a significant contribution to local communities.

The inquiry into Abortion law in Northern Ireland
The Christian Institute believes that Northern Ireland’s abortion law must be respected. Abortion law is a devolved matter and should be determined by politicians within Northern Ireland.

Recent polling carried out by ComRes found that 64% of adults in Northern Ireland believe that abortion law should be decided by Northern Ireland’s elected politicians. Westminster should not be bypassing the will of locally elected representatives, which was last made clear in February 2016.

The law on abortion in Northern Ireland has served to protect lives. Research published by the Both Lives Matter campaign in 2017 found that an estimated 100,000 persons are alive today because Northern Ireland did not adopt the 1967 Abortion Act as in England, Scotland and Wales.

Abortion fundamentally undermines human rights, above all the right to life of the most vulnerable individuals in our society. The law on abortion in Northern Ireland protects individuals who are disabled from discrimination. In the rest of the UK approximately 9 million babies have been aborted since the 1967 Abortion Act came into force, far more than was envisaged when the Act was being introduced.

December 2018