I am writing to respond to the inquiry into abortion law in Northern Ireland.

I believe the current law in Northern Ireland should be preserved, unchanged for the following reasons.

This law has prevented the loss of an estimated 100,000 innocent lives in Northern Ireland over the last 51 years since the 1967 Abortion Act in England.

This is a devolved issue which has been debated recently, and in 2016 it was decided not to change the law. This is the will of our elected representatives and should not be bypassed by Westminster.

In 2016 98% of abortions were carried out for social reasons. This was not the original purpose of the 1967 Act, but it has been used as birth control for the last 51 years. This so called maternal right of abortion actually undermines the rights of the most vulnerable in society – the unborn and their right to life.

Finally, as a working GP I am daily involved in trying to help those who are ill. My aim is to preserve life and to provide the best care to all my patients, including the unborn. I could not in good conscience be able to provide abortion services, particularly in cases of social abortion.

Please leave the law in Northern Ireland unchanged.

December 2018