



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

18th February 2020

Dear Constituent,

A Response to the Abortion Campaign

Thank you for contacting me about abortion in Scotland. As you may be aware, abortion was devolved to the Scottish Parliament via the Scotland Act 2016.

I completely understand what an incredibly emotive issue this is, and I appreciate the strength of feelings on both sides. It is for this reason that, as with other matters of conscience, Members of Parliament, as well as Members of the Scottish Parliament, are able to vote freely according to their moral, ethical, or religious beliefs. This is a convention which I support wholeheartedly.

The approach to abortion in Great Britain is set out in the Abortion Act 1967, which states that two doctors must certify that, in their opinion, a request for an abortion meets at least one and the same ground laid out in the Act. These grounds include "risk to the life of the pregnant woman", and "substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped".

I of course believe that women should be given all the information required before making a decision on abortion and the necessary support should be made available.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alister Jack'.

The Rt. Hon. Alister Jack MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency.