



Chris Heaton-Harris
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about abortion.

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, the Government adopts a neutral stance on abortion and allows Conservative MPs 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*”.

Guidance for doctors on how to comply with the Act has been issued, which stipulates that registered medical practitioners should be able to show how they have considered the particular facts and circumstances of a case when forming their opinion. Full details can be found online at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-doctors-on-compliance-with-the-abortion-act

I am aware that all independent sector abortion clinics in England have been reapproved, which will ensure that abortion services continue to be available to women across the country. I understand that all current approvals are valid until 31 July 2026.

I note your concerns over speculation about the inclusion of a right to abortion in the Bill of Rights Bill. The Government has decided to look again at the Bill of Rights, to ensure that it delivers the Government’s objectives as effectively as possible. This will inform future steps in this area, including any legislation Parliament may be invited to consider in future.

I know that making a decision regarding abortion can be extremely difficult and I believe that we must do all we can to support women to make an informed decision, taking into consideration all their options, with medical professionals offering impartial advice. I will continue to do all I can to ensure plenty of information is available to women making enquiries relating to abortion including all options available to them.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

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