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Mr Chris Mason  
Coordinator  
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31 August 2006

Dear Mr Mason,

Thank you for your letter of 10 August to my colleague Victoria Lindsay about abortion. Your letter has been passed to me for reply.

I am sorry you found my colleague's response unsatisfactory. However, her letter contained the most up to date information available, and I am unable to add anything further in terms of Government policy at this point in time.

You mention the rights of the unborn child. I should clarify that, under English law, a foetus is not recognised as being a separate person from its mother. It has no rights independent of its mother until it is born alive and has an independent existence.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Spinner  
Customer Service Centre  
Department of Health