

Our ref: TO6029984

Chris Mason
United for Life
22 Moreton Close
Bishops Cleeve
Cheltenham
GL52 8AW

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2NL

Tel: 020 7210 3000
Direct Line: 020 7210

1 July 2005

Dear Mr Mason,

Thank you for your letter of 13 June to Tony Blair about abortion. Unfortunately, due to the large amount of correspondence Mr Blair receives, he is unable to respond to all of his letters personally. Your letter was passed to me for reply.

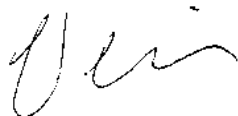
Abortion is a subject on which many people hold very strong and widely differing views. It is accepted Parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion have come from backbench members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government has no plans to change the law on abortion.

As Parliament has decided that abortions may lawfully be carried out in the circumstances specified in the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990), the Government believes that facilities for abortion treatment should be available. The Government also has a responsibility to monitor the provisions of the Act as they are unless Parliament chooses to amend that law further.

Women seeking a termination for whatever reason must have grounds under the Abortion Act. A pregnancy may be terminated only if two registered medical practitioners are of the opinion, formed in good faith, that an abortion is justified within the terms of the Act, in the light of their clinical judgement of all the particular circumstances of the individual case.

I hope this clarifies the Government's position on abortion. Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,



Victoria Lindsay
Customer Service Centre