

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 22nd July 2015

LIFE welcomes court decision on NHS abortions for Northern Ireland residents

The national pro-life charity LIFE has welcomed the Court of Appeal's decision today that women from Northern Ireland are not entitled to taxpayer-funded abortions in the rest of the UK.

LIFE spokeswoman Anne Scanlan said: "It is good to see the courts respecting the settled law of Northern Ireland. To have opened up NHS abortions in England to Northern Irish residents would be to radically undermine their democratically expressed preference, and would amount to judges taking it upon themselves to make law rather than interpret it.

"Almost all abortions in England and Wales are now funded by the NHS, that is to say by ordinary taxpayers, many of whom have strong ethical objections to abortion. The total annual cost of abortion services to the NHS is in excess of £100m. We need to think carefully about whether this is sustainable or appropriate, especially in the light of increasing cost pressure on the NHS.

"Similar resources are not being given to organisations or services that help women continue their pregnancies, by providing practical, financial or emotional support. This is unbalanced and unfair, and contributes to a culture where abortion is seen as the obvious or straightforward answer to a crisis pregnancy. With just a small fraction of the money spent on abortion every year, LIFE could provide hope and positive alternatives for women, helping them to safeguard their child's life and address the difficulties in their life."

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For further media comment please call the LIFE Media Hotline on 07867 744502

LIFE is a pro-life charity that supports anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, pregnancy loss or after an abortion, and strives to engage, inspire and inform the next generation.